

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BASILDON



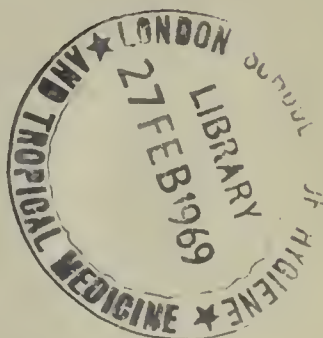
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PATRICK X. O'DWYER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

For the year 1967



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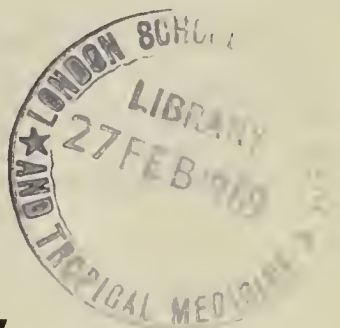
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FOREWORD

Health Department,
98 High Street,
Billericay.

October 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Basildon

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The duty of the local health authority to provide health centres as specified in the National Health Service Act, 1946, received fresh emphasis in April when the Ministry of Health published details of new arrangements for payments to general practitioners practising at health centres. This delegated authority has a proposed health centre in Laindon in the Capital Buildings Programme for 1969-70 and a second one at Vange in the following financial year.

Due to the stringent financial restrictions placed on local health authorities it was necessary to defer implementation of the National Health Service (Family Planning) Act, 1967, which came into operation in June 1967.

It is interesting to note that although the population of the Urban District has increased each year there has been a decline in the birth rate during the last five years. This is a national as well as a local trend, as is the changing pattern of confinements. More mothers are now able to have their babies in hospital and are discharged early to the care of the domiciliary services.

The Training Centres provided under the Mental Health Act, 1959 were both fully occupied during the year and the provision of a demountable classroom in the Autumn term to accommodate the Special Care Unit met an urgent need.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the Committee Members and Chief Officers for their support, to my colleagues in general practice and the hospital services for their co-operation and to all the staff of the Health Department, both administrative and in the field, for their effective work during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PATRICK X. O'DWYER.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Administrative Officer

J. B. Bambrook (until 2.7.67)
J. E. Plummer (from 18.9.67)

Senior Administrative Assistant

I. J. C. Usher (until 5.9.67)
C. A. Watt (from 18.9.67)

Administrative and Clerical Staff

16

Medical Officers

Dr. E. Hodgson, M.B., Ch.B.
Dr. Q. S. Hussain, M.B., B.S.,
D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.
(resigned 11.10.67)

Dr. F. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.A.
Dr. J. Buchanan, M.B., Ch.B.
Dr. B. Cushnaghan, M.B., Ch.B.
Dr. A. Denham, M.B., B.S.
Dr. M. Denham, M.B., B.S.
Dr. R. Goodman, B.Sc., M.B.,
Ch.B.
Dr. J. Newton, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.
Dr. P. Freeman, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.
Dr. A. J. E. Millwood, M.B.,
B.S.
Dr. P. B. Martin, M.B., B.S.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Dr. A. Cooper, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.Obst., R.C.O.G., D.C.H.

Sessional

Supervisory Dental Officer

P. R. J. Bush, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng.),
B.D.S., (U.Lond.)

Dental Officers (including above)

11=6.5 whole-time officers

** Director of Child Guidance Service*

Dr. J. N. Runes, M.D.

Visitor for the Blind

Miss E. E. Ruggles

Visitors for the Physically Handicapped

Mrs. E. M. Spicer
P. N. Gorman

Health Visitors

14=13 whole-time officers

Clinic Nurses

8=5 whole-time officers

Training Centre

Junior Section

Supervisor	1
Senior Assistant Supervisor	1
Assistant Supervisors	7
Trainee Assistant Supervisor	1
Welfare Assistant	1

Senior Section

Supervisor	1
Senior Assistant Supervisor	1
Assistant Supervisor	1
Assistant Instructors	3

Day Nursery

Matron	1
Deputy Matron	1
Warden	1
Nursery Nurses	3
Nursery Assistants	2
Nursery Students	6

Bader House

Supervisor	1
Senior Assistant Instructors	2
Clerical Assistant	1

Nursing Officer

Miss M. R. Clarke, S.R.N., S.C.M.,
H.V.

Assistant Nursing Officer

Miss A. M. Delahunty, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Home Help Organisers

Mrs. A. C. Mills
Mrs. A. Deakin

Senior Mental Welfare Officer

G. B. Tipping

Mental Welfare Officers

B. Gorman

E. Martin

**Specialist Advisers*Dr. W. H. Clark, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.,
D.O.

Dr. B. G. Dias, M.B., B.S., D.O.

Dr. D. Nichol, M.B., B.S., D.L.O.

District Midwives

23=21.5 whole-time officers

District Nurses

16

Speech Therapist

—

Social Worker in Child Guidance Clinic

Mrs. G. Ollington

Clinic Clerical Workers

8= 4.5 whole-time officers

Chiropodists

6=3 whole-time officers

Miscellaneous Workers

44 part-time

3 whole-time

Nursery Nurses

3=1 whole-time officer

Nursery Assistants

2=1 whole-time officer

Home Helps

108 part-time

3 whole-time

** Regional Hospital Board Appointments*

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1967

Area in Acres	27,139
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1967):	114,300
Rateable value as at 31.3.67	£5,044,645
Estimated product of a Penny Rate	£22,678

VITAL STATISTICS, 1967

Live Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	1109	1060	2169
ILLEGITIMATE	44	45	89
	<hr/> 1153	<hr/> 1105	<hr/> 2258
Total birth rate per 1,000 estimated population			19.7
Comparability factor			0.90
Adjusted birth rate			15.56
England and Wales birth rate, 1967			17.2
Illegitimate live births formed 3.942% of the total births			

Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	22	16	38
ILLEGITIMATE	1	2	3
	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 41
Still births rate per 1,000 live and still births			17.83
England and Wales still birth rate, 1967			14.8

Total Live and Still Births

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LEGITIMATE	1131	1076	2207
ILLEGITIMATE	45	47	92
	<hr/> 1176	<hr/> 1123	<hr/> 2299

Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS	442	381	823
Total death rate per 1,000 estimated population			7.181
Comparability Factor			1.50
Adjusted death rate			10.77
England and Wales death rate, 1967			11.2

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births

15.94

Age at death	No. of infant deaths	Rates per 1000 live births	Legitimate infants	Rates per 1000 legitimate live births	Illegitimate infants	Rates per 1000 illegitimate live births
Under 1 year	36	15.94	35	16.14	1	11.24
Under 4 weeks	24	10.63	23	10.60	1	11.24
Under 1 week	22	9.743	21	9.681	1	11.24

Perinatal Mortality Rates (still births and deaths under one week combined)

Per 1000 total live and stillbirths 27.40

Causes of Death amongst Civilians as provided by the Registrar-General, 1967

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Coronary Disease, Angina	99	67	166
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	39	65	104
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	45	44	89
Pneumonia	37	36	73
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	56	7	63
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	24	38	62
Other Heart Disease	24	33	57
Bronchitis	33	14	47
Other Circulatory Disease	12	18	30
Motor Vehicle Accidents	20	3	23
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	18	18
Hypertension with Heart Disease	6	8	14
Congenital Malformations	9	5	14
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	6	7	13
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	4	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	5	2	7
All Other Accidents	5	1	6
Suicide	4	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1	5
Diabetes	2	2	4
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	2	3
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	—	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	—	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2	2
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
Tuberculosis, Other	—	1	1
TOTAL	442	381	823

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year.

	Males	Females
Acute Pneumonia	2	1
Dysentery	3	1
Erysipelas	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	4	2
Measles	1047	978
Meningococcal Infection	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	5
Scarlet Fever	52	43
Tuberculosis Meninges and C.N.S.	—	—
Tuberculosis Other	2	1
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	4	3
Whooping Cough	26	34
TOTALS	1140	1069

TOTAL ALL DISEASES NOTIFIED FOR THE YEAR

2,209

Plus food poisoning cases

3 male 3 female
(notified)

1 female (confirmed)

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives details of the age and sex incidence of all new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year.

Age in Years	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1-2	—	—	—	—
3-4	—	—	—	—
5-14	—	1	—	—
15-24	—	—	—	—
25-44	2	1	2	—
45-64	2	1	—	1
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	3	2	1

Inward Transfers

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
Males	Females	Males	Females	
2	2	1	—	5

Outward Transfers

PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
Males	Females	Males	Females	
2	2	—	—	4

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

(delegated by Essex County Council under Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1958)

Care of Mothers and Young Children (Section 22)

Notifications of Birth or Stillbirth

During 1967, 2,215 births were notified. This gave a birth rate per 1,000 of the population of 19.7%. During the year 40 stillbirths were notified.

The number of births notified each year since 1963 is given below:

1963	2,436
1964	2,387
1965	2,387
1966	2,333
1967	2,215

Clinics

There was again an increase in the number of attendances in all the health services sessions carried out at the purpose-built health clinics in Great Oaks, Basildon, Billericay and Wickford.

Ante Natal Sessions

Ante Natal Sessions where expectant mothers attended for samples of blood to be taken were held in Great Oaks, Pitsea and Wickford clinics during 1967.

Relaxation classes were held by health visitors and midwives. At these sessions expectant mothers are taught ante natal and post natal exercises and midwives book patients for home confinements.

Staff have received training in the Physco-prophalaxis method of relaxation and this method is now used at the classes.

Patients attending sessions	Patients attending for first time	Total Attendances		Total
		Medical Officers Sessions	Midwives Sessions	
Ante-Natal	1,052	4,329	5,644	9,973

Child Welfare Sessions

These sessions were held at all clinics during 1967 and were well attended.

Sessions continued to be held in hired premises as stated under:

Shotgate Community Centre
 South Green Memorial Hall
 Congregational Church Hall, Thynne Road
 Lee Chapel South Community Centre
 Lee Chapel North Community Centre
 Christ Church Hall, Perry Street, Billericay

Details are given below of the total attendance of children during 1967 together with comparative figures for 1965 and 1966.

Year of Birth	Total Attendance
1960/65	(1965) 28,826
1961/66	(1966) 30,901
1962/67	(1967) 31,286

Distribution of Welfare Foods, Medicaments and Nutrients

Government welfare foods, medicaments and nutrients are sold to beneficiaries at health clinics. Additionally proprietary items are sold subject to the recommendation of the Medical Officer, health visitor or midwife in attendance, and are:

- (a) An evaporated or dried milk;
- (b) A cereal food;
- (c) A Vitamin 'B' preparation;
- (d) A Vitamin 'C' preparation;
- (e) A preparation to assist lactation.

Private traders, chemists and other voluntary distribution centres continued to undertake distribution of the Government welfare foods, i.e., National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin 'A' and 'D' tablets, thus enabling a better service to be given to mothers who live in areas not readily accessible to health clinics.

At the end of 1967 there were 12 private traders or other voluntary distribution centres participating in this scheme.

The table below gives quarterly details of sales during 1967:

Quarter Ended	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice	Vitamins A and D
31.3.67	5,630	782	11,405	522
30.6.67	5,496	647	12,004	489
30.9.67	4,254	582	12,314	525
31.12.67	3,725	778	10,966	518
TOTAL	19,105	2,789	46,689	2,054

The table below gives a comparison of total sales as between 1965, 1966 and 1967:

Year	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice	Vitamins A and D
1965	28,262	2,531	44,361	2,233
1966	25,372	2,755	45,172	1,930
1967	19,105	2,789	46,689	2,054

Play Groups and Child Development Sessions

The main purpose of these sessions is to assist families with emotional tensions where a toddler is likely to be disturbed, or who exhibits signs of behaviour disorder. All admissions are made on the recommendation of a Medical Officer in consultation with the health visitors, who also decide on discharges or referral to a Child Guidance Clinic as the case may be.

Great Oaks Health Clinic

Play Group

Sessions held	103
Attendances	841
Number on register at end of year	11
Individual children attended	34

During the year 17 children were discharged as improved.

Three left after attending only a short time and did not benefit from the Play Group.

Four were admitted to school.

One was admitted to the Training Centre.

One was re-admitted to Play Group for a further session on advice of Child Guidance Department.

The children attending were referred by:

- 1 Hospital Paediatrician
- 1 General Practitioner
- 12 Child Guidance Department
- 12 Clinic Doctor

Classification of reasons for admission:

- 3 lack of confidence
- 15 behaviour problems (several have parents with problems)
- 2 speech
- 1 retarded spastic child
- 1 retarded

Child Development Group

Sessions held	48
Attendances	209
Number on register at end of year	4
Individual children attended	12

During the year:

Two children were transferred to Moat House School.

One child transferred to Craylands Nursery Group.

One child discharged for poor attendance.

One child transferred to other Play Group.

Three children transferred to Training Centre.

Craylands Health Clinic

Sessions held	98
Attendances	655
Number on register at end of year	11
Individual children attended	21

During the year:

- Five children were admitted to school.
- One child was admitted to the Training Centre.
- Two children left after attending for a short time.
- One child left to go to the Day Nursery.
- One child left to go to a private nursery.

The children attending were referred by:

- 8 Child Guidance Department.
- 6 Clinic Doctor.
- 7 Health Visitor.

Classification of reasons for admission:

- 3 speech
- 4 family problems.
- 8 behaviour problems.
- 3 physically handicapped.
- 2 retarded.

Wickford Health Clinic

Sessions held	90
Attendances	610
Number on register at end of year	11
Individual children attended	19

During the year:

- 10 children attended twice weekly.
- 4 children were discharged
- 5 children have been admitted.

Of the four discharged:

- 1 was admitted to the Training Centre.
- 2 were admitted to school.
- 1 moved away.

Of the five admitted:

- 1 ? a possible educationally subnormal child has since been referred for assessment.
- 2 mother-child relationship difficulty.
- 1 to assist the child to socialize.
- 1 child had never played with other children (overprotective mother.)

At the end of the year 11 children were attending the group, the remaining six having been admitted during 1966. They were:

- 1 child with spina bifida.
- 1 child with muscular tic.
- 1 brother of an autistic child.
- 1 child with speech defect.
- 2 children with some social problem background.

Day Nursery (50 places)

Admissions to the day nursery are based on a system of priorities which are:

1. Children of sole wage earners, i.e., widow, widower, a parent separated, divorced or deserted, unmarried mothers, mothers working on account of father's chronic illness.
2. Admissions recommended by the Medical Officer of Health for medical reasons, including cases received from socio-economic circumstances irrespective of whether the mothers are in employment.
3. Admissions due to illness of either parent, including confinement of mother or emergency.
4. Children of mothers in employment essential to communal services, i.e., teachers, nurses, etc.
5. Non-priority.

During 1967 the nursery was filled to capacity and although there was no increase in requests for admission from the first three categories, there was a waiting list.

Daily Guardian Scheme.

None was registered during the year.

Health Education

The development of a comprehensive scheme of Health Education in the urban district continued during 1967, being mainly organised by the Group Advisor as the appointment of a full-time Health Education Officer to be shared between delegated and non-delegated functions was again deferred by the County Council due to financial restrictions.

Health Clinics

The health visitors illustrated, monthly, various aspects of the prevention of ill-health and the positive approach to good health. These have included:

- Infectious diseases and colds;
- Dental Health;
- Immunisation and Vaccination;
- Cleanliness and Food Handling;
- Smoking—Lung Cancer;
- Danger of Fireworks;
- Safety in the Home.

The staff have co-operated and used initiative to make these displays artistic and attractive to the public.

Talks were also given to Church Groups, young wives and mothers clubs, youth groups, clubs for the aged and home helps, on various health topics.

Schools

During the year discussions and talks were given to students in primary, secondary modern and technical grammar schools. Subjects included:

- Dental Health
- Immunisation
- Health and Personal Relations
- Health and Hygiene in community and home
- Mothercraft
- Veneral Disease and Childbirth

Films, film strips and slides, leaflets and posters were used to illustrate these talks.

The Careers Convention held in Timberlog County Secondary School provided information and illustrations of the opportunities available for careers in the Health Department, Health Centres, Training Centres, Day Nursery, Occupational Centre for the Physically Handicapped and provision of meals for the elderly at the George Hurd Day Centre.

Great interest was taken in the new method for testing eyesight and the slides shown on the Rotomatic Slide Projector depicting various aspects of Health Education.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Service **(Sections 23 and 25)**

The Midwifery and Home Nursing Services in the Urban District for the year did not produce any major problems or changes.

The domiciliary birth rate again fell slightly, one of the reasons being the increased maternity facilities at Orsett Hospital. Hospital bookings increased, many of these were only short stay cases and the number of early hospital discharges requiring nursing care increased steadily, making the overall duties of the midwife much as before.

The premature birth rate has increased but more premature babies have been nursed at home than in previous years.

The changeover from gas and air machines to Entonox machines was completed, and all the midwives are now equipped with this new apparatus.

Recruitment of nursing staff improved during 1967 and the midwifery service is now almost up to full establishment.

The appointment of the Deputy Nursing Officer presented difficulty and due to the lack of suitably qualified applicants it was decided to re-designate the post to Assistant Nursing Officer and Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives only. Miss Delahunty commenced her duties on 1st January, 1968.

Further training has been given to midwives in the Phsyco-prophalaxis method of relaxation. The teaching of this to expectant mothers in conjunction with the health visitors strengthens co-ordination and liaison of staff generally.

Eighteen pupil midwives received their practical training in the area; coming from Thorpe Coombe and Orsett Hospitals, and also in the second part of the year, from St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford. All passed their examinations successfully.

Telephone answering and recording machines were installed in five midwives' houses; these have been much appreciated and increased the efficiency of the service. It is hoped to install a further two machines in 1968.

In the Home Nursing Service no difficulty was experienced in recruiting staff, and a full establishment was achieved.

Three nurses took the Queen's Training in 1967 and passed their examinations successfully. These are the last staff to obtain the Queen's Certificate as the Queen's Institute training courses end early in 1968. In future the training will be taken within the County of Essex and this training scheme is expected to commence in September 1968.

The number of nursing cases has remained fairly static throughout the year, with a somewhat higher percentage of acute cases and injections.

Two nurses are with general practitioner attachment, and it is hoped to extend this arrangement to another group of doctors in 1968.

Disposable equipment is issued and the range of items has increased. This greatly helps the work of the nurse and is appreciated by all the nursing staff.

Statistics

During 1967 midwives attended 882 deliveries (a decrease of 101 cases over the figure for 1966) and 1,274 mothers who were discharged from hospital after confinements before the tenth day. The number of early discharges showed an increase of 577 over 1966.

At the end of 1967 there were 23 full-time and part-time midwives and 16 district nurses (including 2 male nurses).

Home Nursing

Type of Case	No. of new cases attended by home nurses during the year	No. of visits paid by home nurses during the year	No. of cases on the books 31.12.67
Medical	938	31,980	323
Surgical	236	4,415	36
Infectious Diseases	—	—	—
Maternal Complications	1	3	—
Tuberculosis	5	283	—
Others	42	1,834	11
TOTALS	1,222	38,515	370

It is interesting to note that the number of visits paid by district nurses rose by 3,913 in 1967. There were 370 cases on the books as against 339 at the end of 1966.

Health Visiting (Section 24)

The year 1967 presented extreme difficulties with recruitment for health visitors. Although the establishment was increased to 22, the staff of fully trained health visitors was at times as low as nine and although augmented by clinic nurses it was difficult to run an efficient service.

Despite the shortage of staff, the general pattern of work was well up to average, and the clinics well attended.

Relaxation classes held at the clinics are popular both with patients and staff and are very beneficial. Co-ordination is also maintained between health visitors and midwives. More staff have been given the training in Physio-prophylaxis this year.

Specialised clinics have been extended, and the child development sessions are still proving very worthwhile.

Every effort has been made to continue with a Health Education programme – a very successful project was prepared for the careers exhibition, and an approach has been made by the Grammar School for a series of lectures and talks to be given to the sixth form students – this was carried out in conjunction with the Chief Health Inspector.

Consideration is being given to extending the general practitioner attachment arrangements. An approach has been made by other doctors following the success of the attachment of Laindon health visitors to the practice.

A slight increase in problem families is becoming apparent in the Urban District and the aged persons in the area are also numerous. Visiting these people is important and necessary but also very time consuming, and special geriatric visitors may need to be appointed in the future.

No. of Visits paid by Health Visitors	First Visit	Total Visits
Children under one year of age	2,520	14,123
Children aged 1–2 years	2,096	
Children aged 2–5 years	4,906	
Other cases	1,206	1,680
Persons aged 65 years and over	1,093	1,945
TOTAL	11,821	17,748

Effective visits to children of pre-school age during 1967 totalled 14,123.

Screening Tests

(a) FOR DEAFNESS

Screening was carried out by the health visitors of infants 'at risk' to ascertain if they had hearing defects.

(b) FOR PHENYLKETONURIA

Babies were tested for phenylketonuria twice, either in the health clinics or at their homes and a total of 3,557 tests were carried out. No positive cases were reported.

Congenital Malformations

During 1967, 27 children were born with congenital abnormalities and the table below shows how these abnormalities were grouped.

Central Nervous System	10
Other Systems	1
Limbs	5
Miscellaneous Malformations	2
Uro-genital System	2
Alimentary System	2
Respiratory System	—
Other Skeletal	—
Eye Ear	1
Heart and Great Vessels	3

'At Risk' Register

491 children were placed on the 'At Risk' register making a total of 1,452 children on the register at the end of 1967.

The names of 466 children were removed from the register after medical examination showed that no further special observation was necessary.

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948

The number of premises and persons registered again increased from the previous year. Figures for 1966 are given in brackets.

	1967
Section 1 (1) (a) Number of Play Groups registered	26 (20)
Section 1 (1) (b) Number of persons registered	22 (14)
Number of children being cared for	692 (465)

In all cases the applicants receive an initial visit from the Superintendent Nursing Officer before registration is granted and registered child minders and play groups are visited regularly by health visitors who help and give advice whenever necessary.

Vaccination and Immunisation (Section 26)

Vaccination against Smallpox

The following table records the number of persons known to have been vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year by general practitioners and clinic medical officers:.

Figures for 1966 are given in brackets.

Age at date of Vaccination	Primary Vaccination 1967	Re-Vaccination 1967
Under 1 year	77 (82)	3 (—)
1 year	1,026 (1,066)	— (—)
2-4 years	293 (344)	13 (32)
5-15 years	71 (197)	86 (340)
TOTALS	1,467 (1,689)	102 (372)

Triple Antigen

The table below gives statistical information relating to immunisation using the triple antigen:

	1967	1966	1965	1964	1960- 1963	Under 16	Total
No. of children who received primary course	925	1,001	53	23	25	—	2,027
No. of children who received reinforcing immunisation	—	497	1,090	143	556	114	2,400

Poliomyelitis

Arrangements for vaccination against poliomyelitis continued throughout the year.

	1967	1966	1965	1964	1960-1963	Under 16	Total
No. of persons who received primary oral course	554	1,363	147	42	105	23	2,234
No. of persons who received reinforcing dose	6	93	229	52	1,776	310	2,466

Prevention of Illness Care and After Care (Section 28)

Recuperative Holidays

Recommendations for recuperative holidays for patients were received from general practitioners and hospital consultants and it was possible to arrange holidays for 53 persons.

Chiropody

Chiropody treatment continued to be provided during 1967 for the priority classes.

It was still not possible to recruit up to the full establishment of three full-time chiropodists, the waiting time between appointments being 10 to 12 weeks.

The table below gives an indication of the work carried out by the part-time chiropodists. Figures for 1966 are given in brackets.

Category	New cases being treated during year	Cases being treated at end of year	Clinic attendances during year	Domiciliary treatment
Physically handicapped	9 (14)	37 (42)	82 (67)	183 (208)
Aged 65 years and over	254 (190)	1,141 (1,058)	3,293 (4,190)	1,506 (1,272)
TOTALS	263 (204)	1,178 (1,100)	3,375 (4,257)	1,689 (1,480)

In addition to the work carried out at the clinics and in domiciliary visits, a chiropodist attended Mundy House and Chaplin Lodge, the County Council's old people's residential homes in the urban district, to give regular treatment to the residents.

Extra Nourishment

Arrangements whereby patients suffering from chest complaints can receive one pint of milk per day free on the recommendation of the chest physician continued during 1967.

Fifty-eight people were receiving free milk at the end of 1967 as against 56 at the end of 1966.

Incontinent Pads and Draw Sheets

The arrangements whereby disposable pads were issued free of charge to incontinent persons nursed at home continued during 1967. Draw sheets can be provided as an alternative.

The disposal of the pads is usually carried out by burning or placing in dustbins but where difficulties occur suitable arrangements for incineration have been made with St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay.

Cervical Cytology

At the beginning of the year weekly sessions were being held at Billericay, Great Oaks and Wickford Clinics, and the smear test for early detection of cancer of the womb carried out on approximately eight women at each session. The number of women given the test was limited by the ability of the Pathology Laboratory to process the resulting slides and fairly long waiting lists for appointments existed for each clinic, despite the fact that an increasing number of general practitioners were beginning to offer the service to their own patients. In April 1967, the Laboratory was able to increase the number of slides dealt with from the Council's clinics to 48 per week, but demand kept pace and it was several months before the waiting lists decreased significantly.

In December, additional fortnightly sessions were commenced at Pitsea Clinic, to relieve the demand on the central Basildon clinic at Great Oaks.

1,074 examinations were carried out during the year, of which five results were positive and a further six required further investigation in hospital. In addition, the examining doctors quite frequently detect some comparatively minor condition requiring treatment, and these women are advised to consult their private doctors.

Medical Arrangements for Long-Stay Immigrants

Ministry of Health Circular dated January 1965

Notices were received from port medical authorities in respect of 19 long-stay immigrants whose destination addresses were in the Basildon Urban District. Arrangements were made for these persons to be contacted by the health visitor for the purpose of explaining facilities available under the Health Service and of persuading them to register with a medical practitioner and to arrange for a chest x-ray.

Notices received	19	
Successfully contacted	9	} 19
Removed to known addresses in other areas		
and notices forwarded to appropriate medical officers	5	
Untraceable	5	

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

It was again not possible to make any progress towards implementing the decision of the Council in November 1965, when the principle of fluoridation of water supplies was agreed.

Home Help Service (Section 29)

The total hours worked by home helps was 95,444 hours of which 82,675 hours, i.e., 86% was provided for persons aged 65 and over. In December 1967 the charge for service was increased from 4s. 0d. to 6s. 0d. per hour but this did not affect 80% of the cases helped which are free of charge because beneficiaries are either in receipt of supplementary pensions, or were assessed free of charge for financial reasons.

There was a meeting of home helps during the year and they were able to discuss the service and any problems with the Home Help Organisers. A talk was given by the Health Visitor Group Advisor and films were shown on 'Safety in the Home' and 'Food Values'.

Statistics

Requests for help from new cases during the year	540
Cases not eligible for assistance or not requiring service	182
New cases helped during the year	358
Cases being helped at the end of the year	608
Total cases helped during the year	947
Total number of hours of help provided during the year	95,444

The categories of cases helped during the year were as follows:

Chronic Sick under 65 years of age	67
Aged 65 years of age or over	689
Maternity	113
Others (acute illness, mental disorders, problem families, etc.)	78

Good Neighbour Service

Development continued of the Good Neighbour Service which provides for evening and weekend visits to people needing extra care beyond that offered by the home help and also to provide personal services such as washing, etc., and preparing meals on days when the Meals on Wheels Service is not available.

During the year assistance was given to 34 patients, 18 of whom were still receiving service at 31st December.

Night Attendance Service

This service was available to assist the relatives of terminal patients who require day and night attention. The average service given is one or two nights per week. One patient was attended during the year involving 72 hours worked.

Staff

The recruitment of home helps fluctuated during the year, 111 home helps being in service at the end of 1967 as against 125 at the end of 1966.

The establishment of Home Help Organisers remained at two.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The work of 'Community Care' continued during 1967.

The following figures relate to the work of the Mental Welfare Officers during the year:

	1967
1. Number of admissions	
(a) To psychiatric hospitals	102
(b) To other hospitals	5
2. Number of known severely subnormal persons in the Urban District	215
3. Number of severely subnormal persons receiving community care	215
4. Number of known subnormal persons in the Urban District	135
5. Number of subnormal persons receiving community care in the Urban District	135
6. Total visits paid to categories (3) and (5)	1,556
7. Total visits paid in connection with (1) above	502
8. Visits to mentally ill	1,060

Training Centres

The Supervisor of the Junior Training Centre reports:

The Special Care Unit opened on 16th October, 1967 and quickly established its need as a very necessary part of the centre. Apart from the natural relief to parents it was soon obvious that the children with special needs would benefit from the care and attention they were receiving.

Fourteen children over 16 years of age moved into the Adult Centre and the list of children waiting to come into the centre was cleared.

Weekly staff meetings were started on 8th November, 1967. The purpose of these was to give the staff information about centre activities and to discuss various subjects and problems that might arise. This has helped to form better relationships between staff and affected the behaviour of the children who seem much happier and less aggressive.

A Carol Service was held on Wednesday, 13th December, which was well attended by parents and visitors.

The Children's Christmas Party was on 19th December. One of the boys from the Adult Centre acted as Father Christmas and was a huge success.

We were pleased to welcome a number of visitors to the centre – student nurses from Orsett Hospital, a student nurse from the National Association of Mental Health and two girls each week from Nicholas Secondary Modern School.

The Supervisor of the Senior Training Centre reports:

The year has seen the introduction of several new approaches and activities at the senior centre.

Recreational activities have been encouraged, and a football team has been formed, kitted out, and has taken part in matches against other training centres. The results of the matches have not been in our favour, but the results of the teamwork, the enthusiasm and the widening of experiences for the trainees, has been very beneficial to their general outlook.

On the further education side; the trainees have been assessed into small groups, each group taking part in regular sessions of further education and social training, according to their needs.

Fifteen trainees from the Junior Centre have been taken into the Senior Centre, and have settled in quite well, with the exception of one girl who, due to the home situation, has been admitted to hospital.

One of the results of a close liaison with Miss Barnett, the Supervisor of the Junior Centre, has been the strengthening of the transition group project. This entails visits by juniors in this group, into the Senior Centre, twice each week, as part of their introduction to Adult Centre life.

A closer liaison is being sought with parents, and meetings are being planned.

Local firms are being re-approached in the hope of obtaining more contract work for the trainees, without the threat of too much pressure being put upon the trainees.

More activities are being planned for 1968.

International Voluntary Service

During two weeks from the 14th August the Training Centre was used by a group of student volunteers for a project sponsored by Basildon and District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, to provide nursery facilities for about 20 mentally handicapped children each day in order to give the parents some relief during the school and training centre holidays. Arrangements were made for beds and bedding to be obtained on loan and meals for the students and children were provided; the students slept on the premises and the children were brought to the centre daily.

The children appeared to thoroughly enjoy the play activities provided by the students who came from several European countries, and I was assured of the parents' appreciation of the project, which allowed many of them to make special day outings with their other non-handicapped children.

WELFARE SERVICES

Care of the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948)

The work of promoting the welfare of the blind, deaf or dumb, and persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity continued during the year. Handicapped persons were visited in their homes by the three full-time Social Welfare Officers; adaptations and alterations to dwellings were undertaken where necessary; loan of equipment, aids and gadgets was arranged, assistance with holidays provided, and a wide variety of personal and social problems dealt with.

Bader House Occupational Centre provided facilities for physically handicapped persons to learn crafts such as basketwork, toy making, carpentry, etc., and the handicraft class for the blind had also moved into the Centre. Various local voluntary societies, mainly those concerned with groups of handicapped persons, made use of the premises for evening social club meetings.

The social clubs and old-time dancing classes for the blind enjoyed continued popularity and membership increased. In December a preliminary meeting was held to explore the possibility of starting a social club for the deaf, and the response from deaf persons was so enthusiastic that plans were made to go ahead with the club in the New Year.

Statistics are given below:

Physically Handicapped Register at 31st December, 1967

Classification	M	F	Total
Amputees	13	16	29
Arthritis/Rheumatism	28	138	166
Congenital Deformation	5	6	11
Heart and Circulatory System	25	17	42
Digestive and Genito-urinary System			
Respiratory System, Skin Diseases			
Injuries of Body and Head	19	18	37
Injuries of Limbs and Spine			
Ankylosing Spondylitis			
Nervous and Mental Disorders	4	1	5
Epileptics, Plegics, Spastics	67	90	157
Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy			
Parkinson's Disease, Poliomyelitis			
Tuberculosis, Respiratory and	5	2	7
Non-Respiratory			
Diseases and injuries not otherwise specified	5	12	17
Totals	171	300	471

Blind Register at 31st December, 1967

Classification	M	F	Total
Children age 2-4+ - at home	1	1	2
Children aged 5-15+ in special schools	—	2	2
Employed at Home Work	—	1	1
Employed otherwise	14	3	17
Unemployed - Employable - trained for	1	—	1
Open Employment			
Not available for employment	1	11	12
Not capable of employment	10	7	17
Not working - over 65	37	90	127
Totals	64	115	179
Partially Sighted Register	13	35	48

District Council Welfare Services

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Amendment) Act, 1962

Day Centre for the Elderly

The George Hurd Day Centre and Central Kitchen opened on 18th September, 1967, its purpose being to provide mid-day meals for elderly people in the dining room at the Centre, at luncheon clubs throughout the District, and to supply the W.R.V.S. Meals on Wheels Service. In addition the Centre has a large comfortable lounge with facilities for darts, reading, television, and other recreational activities.

By the end of the year approximately 1,300 meals were being produced weekly, and up to 100 elderly people were visiting the Centre each day.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE
(Divisional Administration) Scheme, 1961

District School Population

The school population for the district at the end of 1967 was 23,413, this compared with a figure of 22,238 in December 1966 and 21,518 in December 1965.

School Medical Inspections

The following table gives the number of children inspected by year of birth.

Age Group (in year of birth)	No. of Pupils Inspected	No. of Pupils with defects requiring treatment (excluding dental and vision)	Ratio of Pupils with defects to pupils inspected
1963 and later	—	—	—
1962	748	19	1 : 39.37
1961	1,776	52	1 : 34.1
1960	501	12	1 : 41.75
1959	49	1	1 : 49
1958	5	—	—
1957	563	9	1 : 62.6
1956	1,120	18	1 : 62.2
1955	308	5	1 : 61.6
1954	24	—	—
1953	189	7	1 : 27
1952 and earlier	1,035	14	1 : 73.9
Totals	6,318	138	

DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections										Special Inspections	
	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total (all groups)					
	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation	Treatment	Observation
Skin	4	102	1	58	8	77	13	237	—	—	3	
Eyes	16	111	37	55	36	146	89	312	—	—	21	
	9	47	—	3	3	16	12	66	—	—	4	
	—	25	—	13	1	28	1	66	—	—	7	
Ears	4	72	1	8	4	38	9	118	1	—	3	
	7	170	—	7	1	51	8	228	—	—	—	
	—	39	—	4	1	20	1	63	—	—	2	
Nose and Throat	22	564	1	43	8	153	31	760	—	—	6	
Speech	3	60	—	5	—	16	3	81	—	—	4	
Lymphatic Glands	1	67	—	3	—	20	1	90	—	—	—	
Heart	1	59	—	9	1	50	2	118	—	—	1	
Lungs	4	90	—	8	—	48	4	146	—	—	2	
Developmental	3	17	—	—	1	10	4	27	—	—	—	
	12	174	7	29	5	93	24	296	—	—	16	
Orthopaedic	—	6	—	9	—	16	—	31	—	—	1	
	6	156	1	32	1	119	8	307	—	—	5	
	1	89	3	52	4	89	8	230	—	—	8	
Nervous System	—	16	—	2	—	14	—	32	—	—	—	
	3	56	—	6	1	40	4	102	—	—	13	
Psychological	3	44	—	2	1	15	4	61	—	—	47	
	—	136	—	22	1	80	1	238	—	—	3	
Abdomen	—	14	—	4	—	11	—	29	—	—	1	
Other	—	17	—	9	—	22	—	48	—	—	—	

B.C.G. Vaccination

School children continued, during the year, to participate in the scheme for vaccination in order to gain protection against Tuberculosis and the table below shows the vaccinations carried out:

Number of children skin tested	Positive Reactions at Preliminary Test		Number of children who received B.C.G Vaccination
	Number	Percentage	
962	75	7.8	817

Convalescent Holidays

Thirty-one pupils received convalescent treatment under school health service arrangements.

Treatment of Enuresis

During the year on the recommendation of Consultant Paediatricians and Assistant School Medical Officers, 145 children were provided with enuretic alarms. Parents were instructed at clinics on the use of the equipment and progress was supervised by health visitors.

Provision of Chiropody Treatment for School Children

Under arrangements which existed prior to the transfer of functions, chiropody was provided for school children as shown below:

No. of new cases treated during year	No. of cases being treated at end of year	No. of Clinic Attendances
50	24	455

Cleanliness Inspection in Schools

Cleanliness inspections continued to be carried out each term together with general hygiene surveys. Statistics are given below:

Total No. of Examinations	No. found infested for first time in current year	No. found re-infested during current year	No. of informal letters sent
38,777	54	10	Nil

Ascertainment of Handicapped Children

During 1967, no child between the ages of 5-15 years was 'ascertained' as blind, partially sighted or deaf.

The number of children ascertained as requiring special educational treatment in other categories is as follows:

Partially Hearing	—
Delicate	8
Physically Handicapped	3
Maladjusted	15
Educationally Subnormal	22
Epileptic	1
Speech Defective	1

Ophthalmic Sessions

Statistics

(a) Eye Disease, Defective Vision and Squint

No. of cases dealt with:

Errors of refraction (including squint)

2,071

(b) Provision of Spectacles

No. of children for whom spectacles were prescribed

678

Speech Therapy

It was not possible to recruit a speech therapist during 1967 and this inevitably brought about a complete curtailment of the service.

Audiometry

Statistics

	Under 5 years		5-6 years		7-11 years		12 years & over	
	Tested	Failed	Tested	Failed	Tested	Failed	Tested	Failed
Routine Sweep Tests In Ordinary Schools	—	—	3113	105	2268	44	1264	11
In Special School for E.S.N.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Special Tests Since attending E.N.T. Clinic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Since having Speech Therapy	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ref. at S.M.I. or otherwise because of suspected hearing loss	17	4	77	38	102	30	21	4

	Under 5 years	5-6 years	7-11 years	12 years and over
1. No. referred to S.M.O.	2	110	93	33
2. No. in (1)				
(a) found to have normal hearing	1	59	54	26
(b) normal hearing re- turned after treatment	1	—	—	—
(c) No. referred to E.N.T. Specialist	—	14	8	7
(d) Referred to Audi- ology Clinic	—	1	2	—
Referred to G.P.	—	21	17	—

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Moat House Special School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils

Mr. Foulkes, the Headmaster, reports:

Number on Roll December 1966	125
Number on Roll December 1967	126
Number ascertained as not suitable for education in school	3
Number left district	7
Number to residential school	3
Number left school at 16+	8
Number of new entrants	24
Number on waiting list	10
Number left to ordinary school	1

Minor Ailments

During the year attention for minor ailments was given on 268 occasions.

Medical Inspection

There have been 10 routine medicals held in the school in which 77 children were examined.

School Attendant

During the year the school attendant has escorted children to Great Oaks Clinic for the following reasons.

Eye Clinic	13 visits	33 children
Dental Clinic	36 visits	124 children
Chiropodist	17 visits	44 children
To local doctor for emergency aid		9 children
Children taken home		12

Speech Therapy

The provision of a speech therapist is still our most urgent need. There are still a large number of children needing a great deal of help to overcome their difficulties.

Child Guidance Clinic

Consultations have been made with the Child Guidance Team as and when required.

CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE

Dr. Runes, the Medical Director, reports:

'During 1967 there were considerable and far-reaching changes in our clinic. All four Educational Psychologists left; Mr. Singer was very much affected by the events in Israel and he emigrated to that country. Mrs. Foote obtained a senior appointment at Southend, and Mr. Cooper and Mr. McCallum returned to Australia. The educational side is at present in the hands of a part-time Educational Psychologist, who is holding a temporary appointment. We have also been unlucky as regards P.S.W.'s and Social Workers. No applications for our vacancies have been received.

These difficulties result in having to rely, mainly, on the Psychiatrists for coping with our increased case load. There are, at present, six established and four provisional sessions. We can, therefore, offer psychotherapy only in most essential cases and even that has to be limited to a minimum. The vacancy of a psychotherapist has remained unfilled for about eight years.

Our work for the South-East area is now concentrated at a provisional clinic in Hadleigh; the subsidiary clinic at Hockley had to be abandoned as the premises proved to be inadequate for our purpose. However, our periodic attendances at the Child Development Centres in the South-East Division, viz., at Hadleigh, Great Wakering and Canvey, were continued. There were also regular Joint Clinics with the Consultant Paediatrician, Dr. Wickes, which are held at St. Andrew's Hospital, or at the Basildon Child Guidance Clinic.

The discussion group with the Housemothers-in-Charge of the various Greater London Council Homes in Basildon has been extended to those of Essex County Council in the Basildon area. In connection with these discussions we also see children from these Homes who are referred to us by the respective Childrens Departments. We still have a long standing difficulty in placing adolescents in need of hospital observation and treatment; we have to look at a considerable distance in order to find a place for the very disturbed adolescent, and this presents difficulties as parents are usually unhappy having to travel a long way in order to visit their children. On the other hand, there is now sufficient provision for the placement of younger children to the Psychiatric Childrens Units, of which two, viz., at Colchester and Whipps Cross, function in our area.

A sad fate has overtaken our Tutorial classes. The use of the Corporation houses in Honeypot Lane has been withdrawn and the arrangements for alternative accommodation have been delayed, with the result that the classes ceased to function after the summer holiday. No date, so far, has been given for their reopening, nor has the class at Hadleigh been reopened since the last teacher, Miss Close, left. This has been a great blow to us, as we were able, in the past, to offer the less disturbed or maladjusted child some form of therapeutic facilities as well as remedial help.

I would like to summarise our urgent needs as follows:

1. One or two full-time Educational Psychologists;
2. Two additional Psychiatric Social Workers or Social Workers
3. A part-time psychotherapist;
4. Regular access to an Adolescent Unit;
5. The reopening of the Tutorial classes in Basildon and Hadleigh.'

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

The Supervisory Dental Officer reports:

Staff

(a) Dental Officers

One new Dental Officer joined the Dental Department for four days a week, and three sessional officers already employed by the Council increased the number of sessions they worked per week.

(b) Dental Surgery Assistants

The number employed by the Council remained fairly static, although one part-time dental surgery assistant took on full-time duties, and one full-time dental surgery assistant left the area.

(c) Anaesthetists

In addition to regular help given by one of the Basildon Local Authority Medical Officers and two qualified hospital Anaesthetists, occasional help was given by two Consultants from St. Andrews Hospital and by one doctor in general practice in the area.

Equipment of Clinics

Every opportunity was taken to increase the efficiency of the Dental Service by the replacement of old equipment (e.g., a new dental chair was fitted in Craylands Clinic) and regular servicing of the Dental Equipment. Decorations to several dental rooms in the clinics were carried out during the year. **Evening Classes** for dental surgery assistants preparing to take the examination for the Dental Surgery Assistants Certificate were held at Great Oaks Clinic and every help was extended to the Lecturer and to the Student Dental Surgery Assistants.

The Area Dental Surgery Assistants Association were given permission to use the clinics for some of their meetings – several interesting talks and discussions were well attended.

Staff Meetings.

The clinics were used for occasional social gatherings and for discussions about dentistry in general.

Courses

Encouragement and support were given to people who wished to attend refresher courses during the year.

Dental Health Education

(a) There were good poster displays in the clinics. Also there were occasional talks to expectant and nursing mothers about dental health at clinics. Regular chairside instruction was given to patients at the clinics about dental health and school inspections incorporated dental health education.

(b) There was incorporation of dental health material into a Careers Exhibition at a local school. The Dental Surgery Assistants Association also had a stand at this particular exhibition, and one member of the clinic dental surgery assistants represented the Health Department on this stand.

(c) A Pilot scheme was started for the sale of toothbrushes in schools. This is in progress at present at one particular school, and a full report after a year's progress will be made in mid-1968.

(d) The sale of toothbrushes in clinics continued as in previous years.

General Treatment of Patients

(a) School Inspections

An effort was made to continue the policy of inspecting the teeth of every school child in the area at least once a year. New and better forms of treatment acceptance were introduced.

(b) General Conservation and Orthodontics

There were no new innovations in this field except that a new laboratory started doing the mechanics for the Department. There was good co-operation with the local Orthodontics Consultant and with staff of the local hospitals.

(c) Denture Work

A very small proportion of the total work falls into this category. Parents appear to be getting much more receptive to conservation ideas.

(d) General Anaesthetics

The clinics provide four sessions per week in the area.

Statistics

No. of Pupils Inspected	No. requiring Treatment	No. actually Treated
24,080	8,436	5,484

No. of half-days devoted to inspection 517.8

No. of half-days devoted to treatment 1921.4

Fillings (a) Permanent Teeth 5968

(b) Temporary Teeth 4266

No. of teeth filled (a) Permanent Teeth 5035

(b) Temporary Teeth 4044

Extraction (a) Permanent Teeth 666

(b) Temporary Teeth 2946

Anaesthetics

General 1847

Orthodontic Treatment

Cases commenced during 1967 73

Cases completed during 1967 61

Pupils treated with appliances 119

Summary

An efficient and fully comprehensive service was provided by the Dental Department during 1967. This was helped by the encouraging fact that the number of staff remained very high which in turn was influenced by the good conditions of the service in the area.

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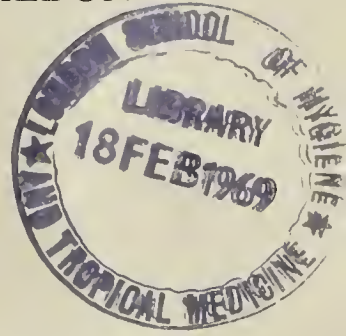


ANNUAL REPORT 1967

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BASILDON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTOR

1967

M. A. LARGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR FOR 1967

M. A. LARGE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	M. J. Desmond, M.A.P.H.I.
Senior Public Health Inspector	J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I.
District Public Health Inspectors	D. R. Cotgrove, M.A.P.H.I. D. Coyne, M.A.P.H.I. D. G. Greenhalgh, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed 13.11.67) J. E. Hillier, M.A.P.H.I. J. Holford, M.R.S.H. N. R. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I. G. G. Oxley, M.A.P.H.I. M. E. Salmon
Pupil Public Health Inspectors	N. Bannister C. J. Meadows
Principal Clerk	P. W. Woodger (resigned 4.8.67) J. W. Selvey (appointed 14.8.67)
Senior Clerk	Mrs. E. S. McAllister
Chief Public Health Inspector's Secretary	Mrs. C. A. Rowe (resigned 28.7.67) Mrs. S. C. King (appointed 24.7.67)
Clerical Staff	Mrs. M. P. Smith Mrs. M. A. Loomes Mrs. J. P. Strong (appointed 14.8.67)
Telephonist	Mrs. J. B. Williamson
Rodent Operatives/General Assistants	L. A. May G. Ridgwell L. Ridgwell
Minibus Driver/General Assistant	J. Hardwicke (resigned 7.4.67) T. Green (appointed 7.4.67 resigned 10.11.67) W. S. Sheppard (appointed 15.11.67)
Public Analysts	J. Hubert Hamence, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C. P. S. Hall, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Veterinary Advisers	C. M. Newsholme, M.R.C.V.S. A. C. W. Fairhead, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. C. A. G. Felgate, M.R.C.V.S.

98A High Street,
Billericay,
Essex.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Basildon.

In 1953 the Working Party on the Recruitment, Training and Qualification of Public Health Inspectors reported as follows:

“A public health inspector is a local government officer whose duty it is to secure compliance with certain laws designed to protect the public health. To do this, he needs to have a good working knowledge – in many cases a detailed knowledge – of certain techniques and services. The number and variety of these is the outstanding feature of his work. Thus while not himself practising medicine, architecture, engineering or building, he must know something of all of them and all this calls for a very special type of training. But first and last he is an executive officer, exercising control over the public in accordance with the law of the land, a control which often touches the pocket of the individual and could in the wrong hands be very galling. It is here that the modern public health inspector has developed his own special skill over and above those he borrows from other callings. The public health code is a vast and complicated one and it is the public health inspector's function, within his own field, to translate it into terms intelligible to the common man and so enable him to see clearly what he must do and how he can do it with least inconvenience and expense. The public health inspector must needs be familiar with many trades but he must also be master of one – a most important one in a free community – that of interpreting the requirements of the law to the citizen and enlisting his willing co-operation.”

The following is a summary of action taken during 1967 by your Public Health Inspectors in the discharge of this duty.

I am grateful for the support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, for the co-operation of officers of the other departments and for the willingness and loyalty of an excellent staff.

M. A. LARGE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

NEW LEGISLATION

New Acts and Statutory Instruments affecting the Department which came into operation during the year are as follows:—

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966

These Regulations strengthen the present food hygiene requirements for trading in covered and uncovered markets from delivery vehicles, mobile shops, stalls, and trading in the open air generally.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 1966

These Regulations amended the requirements to provide washing and other facilities on vehicles and laid down conditions which must be satisfied before exemption applies.

The Cheese Regulations 1965

These Regulations specify requirements for the composition, permitted ingredients and description of cheeses and compound products.

The Cheese (Amendment) Regulations 1966

The amendments postponed certain labelling requirements of the 1965 Regulations and in addition prescribed fat and moisture conditions for certain foreign cheeses and processed cheeses.

The Stands for Carry Cots (Safety) Regulations 1966

Regulates design of stands to enable cot to be retained by a guard rail or rigid stops.

The Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations 1967

Prohibit the application of ionising radiation to food intended for sale for human consumption.

The Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1966

Supersede the 1957 Regulations regarding colouring matters added to food for sale for human consumption.

The Butter Regulations 1966

Regulate the amount of milk fat, milk solids and moisture in butter.

The Toys (Safety) Regulations 1967

Imposes safety requirements for certain toys.

The Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations 1967

Supersedes the 1953 Regulations regarding composition of artificial sweeteners and labelling.

The Nightdress (Safety) Regulations 1967

Imposes requirements regarding flammability of fabrics and the use of warning labels.

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Water Supplies

The Southend Waterworks Company carry out daily examination of water going into supply from their works at Langford near Maldon and Hanningfield Reservoir. In addition, fortnightly analyses of water from wells and bore holes are made by the Company's Chemists.

The population supplied by public water mains is 116,250; and 36,150 dwelling units receive a direct supply. Both the Company's examinations and periodic routine check samples taken by my Department show the water supply for the Urban District to be satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically without tendency to plumbo solvency.

The water supply derived from river sources has a natural fluoride content of 0.25 ppm. From underground sources the fluoride figure ranges from 0.7 to 3.7 ppm. The underground sources are those where supply is derived from the eight spring wells or bore holes in the Urban District. Apart from one at Wickford the remaining seven are situated south of the Arterial Road and serve a relatively small population in the older parts of the district.

Following the Ministry's advisory letter to local authorities on lead in drinking water, a check was made on properties in the Buckwyns area near Billericay who rely on their own private supply of water from spring wells. Nineteen properties were visited, in particular those having a lead water service system but no tendency to plumbo solvency was found.

There was no evidence of contamination of water supplied by the Company although the Department received a small number of the usual complaints concerning discolouration of water, taste, and suspicion that the water supply had caused sickness. On investigation these were not substantiated.

Seven samples from main water supplies and five samples from other sources were taken during the year.

Water Main Extensions

Restrictions on local authority expenditure early in 1967 and uncertainty regarding the effect of future development on road patterns, resulted in only one roadway, Canford Avenue, Wickford, being approved by the Council for main extension. This involved an extension of 200 yards to enable three permanent properties and seven week-end properties to benefit from a main supply. The work was completed by the Southend Waterworks Company in May.

Nine miles of mains were laid by the Company during the year varying in diameter between 3-9 inches.

Water Deliveries

Whilst 1967 may go on record as a golden year for sunshine, the long summer days produced severe drought conditions and the Council's emergency water delivery service was much in demand during July and August.

The number of visits made by the water delivery vehicle was almost twice that of the previous year and 31,200 gallons were supplied to 39 remotely situated properties. Whilst every effort was made to ensure that both domestic and commercial needs were met, water deliveries had to be restricted at certain times to 400 gallons per delivery with priority to domestic users.

Domestic Standpipe Supplies

I am pleased to be able to report that the continued development of the district and the extension of water mains outside the development areas have resulted in the redundancy of public standpipes at an increasing rate. Official notices were displayed for a period of three months on any standpipes considered to be redundant to ensure that occasional users have an opportunity to make representations before the decision to demolish the standpipe is taken.

The following table illustrates the reduction in the use of standpipes within the district since 1963:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Standpipes in Use</i>	<i>No. of Key Holders</i>
1963	47	105
1964	45	91
1965	41	91
1966	37	81
1967	29	67

(3 of which are awaiting demolition)

In addition there remain eight standpipes in the Langdon Hills area which are the responsibility of the Southend Waterworks Company. There are 54 current key holders for this group of standpipes.

Swimming Pools

With the opening of a new swimming pool at Billericay Junior School during the year, the number of school swimming pools in the Urban District has now reached 10. Two of these are indoor pools which can be used throughout the year while the remaining eight are open-air pools in use between April and September. There are also three children's paddling pools in Council recreation grounds and these are chlorinated and cleansed regularly throughout the summer months by the Recreation Department groundsmen.

Frequent visits were made by my staff to each of the swimming pools and paddling pools in the area to test the condition of the water and to give advice when necessary. Generally speaking the water was found to be satisfactory although at some schools difficulty was experienced in keeping the chlorine level up to the recommended one to two parts per million of free residual chlorine. The fluctuations in the bathing load, and variations in the amount of sunshine make the maintenance of a steady level of free residual chlorine more difficult in the outdoor pools. To overcome these difficulties the person in charge of the pool must be vigilant and make frequent tests throughout the day in order that the dosing of the water can be varied to ensure that the chlorine content remains at a suitable level. The results of these tests taken throughout the day are entered on forms which are forwarded to this Department each week and these returns are most helpful in assessing the condition of the various pools throughout the year.

Many of the schools made the pools available for use by the school children during their summer holidays and the numbers of children taking advantage of this facility was an indication of its popularity. At times, the bathing load in some of the pools was very heavy and care had to be taken on these occasions to ensure that there was proper supervision and that the quality of water was maintained.

General Nuisances

Despite the vast improvements in housing and the provision of modern amenities the investigation of general nuisances still occupies a large proportion of an Inspector's working day and during the course of investigating the 666 complaints received this year, a total of 4,588 visits were made, an increase of over 300 on the previous year. Although the function of the Public Health Inspector is to secure compliance by the public with certain aspects of the law which are designed to protect the health of the community in the broadest sense, this compliance is increasingly today obtained by advice, persuasion and education. Not knowing where else to turn, people frequently approach the Health Inspector with all manner of problems and it is apparent that the public appreciate that here is an officer who will deal with their problems in their homes rather than across the reception counter.

Complaints of obstructed drains become more frequent each year and my staff are instructed to treat each notification as a top priority emergency – which indeed many of them are. Unfortunately, the law governing obstructed sewers and drains, although streamlined under the Public Health Act, 1961, in general defers emergency action by the Council for at least 48 hours. Many people are under the mistaken impression that all drains and sewers are the responsibility of the local council and are surprised to learn that, for example, a private sewer serving an estate of considerable size should be maintained and repaired by the owners or occupiers of those properties and that the Council's interest is one of enforcement.

Thirty-two of the complaints received concerned nuisances from farms or from the keeping of pigs or other animals and in dealing with these a Public Health Inspector is often faced with the task of deciding whether the associated "rural odour" would be accepted by the Courts as a statutory nuisance. Many city dwellers are now moving to what were previously primarily rural communities and the rapid housing development of recent years has brought residential areas close to the long established agricultural activities of silage production, pig keeping and manuring.

The oft quoted dictum that what would be a nuisance in Belgrave Square would not necessarily be so in Bermondsey has to be borne in mind, and where residential development adjoins agricultural land occupiers will need to accept, on occasions, some of the seasonal consequences of normal farming activities since a public nuisance is likely to be proved only when such activities create an annoyance over and above what is normally expected.

Noise Control

The Department investigated 32 complaints of noise from a variety of sources, from geese to bulldozers. Nuisance from ice-cream chimes again features prominently and experience in Basildon since the Act came into force in 1960 is that the occasional prosecution of offenders is having little if any positive effect.

The disturbance of residents by night working of a track-tamping machine was another of the cases dealt with during the year. Some 20 families were awakened at 2.00 a.m. by this machine which is used for pounding ballast between railway tracks and its use at night was to avoid so far as possible, any interference with the scheduled train services.

Representations to British Rail resulted in the track maintenance programme on this section of track being progressed as quickly as possible and arrangements were made for immediate notification to the Department should any further disturbance occur.

I suggested to British Rail, Eastern Region, that notification should be given to local authorities in whose areas such machines were scheduled for night work together with an indication of the duration of the operation to enable the local public health departments to liaise fully with complainants who would be likely to be more tolerant of this sudden disturbance if fully acquainted with the reason for it, and if satisfied that all was being done to keep the nuisance to an absolute minimum. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulty in assessing precisely the location of any machine on any particular night, the Divisional Engineer was unable to comply with this request.

The noise complaint of the year, insofar as local and national press coverage was concerned, was that involving "Barrack", the barking guard dog. This Alsatian was kennelled in a large compound containing several thousand pounds worth of new motor cars and his commission was to create a commotion should any unauthorised person try to enter the compound. Unfortunately, he was not always able to distinguish between authorised and unauthorised persons and he was so sensitive to any noise, that in the still of night a disturbance half a mile away was liable to start him barking. It was alleged he not only awoke nearby residents but also every other dog and baby in the area with resultant pandemonium. A Public Meeting was held between the residents, the Member of Parliament and officers of the Council and of the Development Corporation and in view of the proximity of houses in relation to the activities carried on at the garage some tenants accepted the offer of alternative accommodation. "Barrack" underwent further training and the absence of subsequent complaints suggests that he was finally able to carry out his security work with more discretion.

The recommendations of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Circular No. 22/67 are welcomed and in particular that training and technical instruction on noise control should be available to local authority officers who have, in the course of their duties, to deal with noise problems.

One of my Inspectors attended the first of a series of courses in London on this subject during the year and I hope that each public health inspector will eventually have a similar opportunity.

Education of the public is also a recommendation of the circular and, to this end, anti-noise posters have been displayed on public notice boards and other places in the Urban District. It is suggested that the Ministry might well consider assisting local authorities further by making available suitable well designed posters and publicity literature on similar lines to that provided by the Ministry of Health in connection with food hygiene.

FACTORIES

No new large industrial development took place during the year although several small and medium size factories were completed or started and extensions were carried out at Darham Industries and Carreras Limited. A factory manufacturing pre-cast concrete building sections commenced operations on the fringe of the New Town.

The number of registered factories within the District increased slightly to a total of 292 and 277 inspections were achieved.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupier Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	3	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	284	271	35	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	4	3	4	—
Total	292	277	42	—

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	22	16	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	7	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—
(d) Ventilation	8	5	1	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work).	20	16	—	—	—
Total	63	47	1	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT — OUTWORK

	SECTION 133				SECTION 134		
	No. of outworkers notified as required by Section (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Nature of Work							
Wearing apparel making	163	14	—	—	—	—	
Plastic Moulding and tool making	29	3	—	—	—	—	
Hardware and wire articles	20	2	—	—	—	—	
Soldering and assembling	9	2	—	—	—	—	
Basket making	4	2	—	—	—	—	
Total	225	23	—	—	—	—	

RODENT CONTROL AND DISINFESTATION

Rodent Control

The routine work of dealing with infestations of rats and mice in the Urban District was maintained satisfactorily during the year and no major infestations occurred. The Department's Rodent Control Section received a total of 466 complaints of infestation in private dwellings. Service to 88 premises was carried out on a re-chargeable basis and 28 annual contracts for rodent control at farms, factories and other commercial premises were undertaken.

The "black spot" system, an arrangement whereby further treatments are carried out on a programmed basis to locations where infestation is a known problem was continued, but demands on manual staff time in other spheres of necessity restricted the extent of surveys of farms and agricultural land.

Routine Spring and Autumn treatments of the foul and surface water sewers in the designated New Town Area were carried out under contract for the Basildon Development Corporation and out of a total of 805 manholes tested only three takes were recorded which is indicative of the success of our treatments in previous years. The Council's sewerage system, being a much older network, produced more formidable opposition with infestation in 137 out of 475 manholes tested. As a departure from the treatment with an acute poison the Council's sewers were baited with Warfarin mix specially prepared for use under damp conditions thus avoiding the necessity for rigorous pre-baiting.

Some evidence of bait resistance in mice was found during the year particularly in treating an infestation on a chicken farm where more attractive diets to Warfarin were freely available. Quite considerable success was eventually achieved by the use of a liquid bait in the form of soluble Warfarin together with the use of tracking dust. The dust, which contains DDT, is toxic to mice and as rodents constantly clean their fur and feet by licking, sufficient is eventually ingested to produce lethal results, providing it is laid by a skilled operator who can recognise the paths habitually used.

The dangers of Weils disease and the thousands of pounds of damage caused every year by rats on farms prompted the Ministry to sponsor a national campaign to persuade farmers to co-operate with the local authorities and the Ministry in an effort to rid the countryside of the rat menace. It was unfortunate that by the end of the year it was evident that the full impetus of the campaign could not be brought to bear due to the severe outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the country and the consequent restrictions on visits to farms.

Disinfestation

A departure from the more usual forms of disinfestation undertaken was the Department's venture into the controversial field of feral pigeon control. Persistent nuisance was being caused to occupiers of a small group of houses in Basildon by approximately 30-40 of these birds who had apparently selected the flat roof of one of the dwellings as a permanent home. The Basildon Development Corporation had endeavoured unsuccessfully to deal with the pigeons by trapping. Application was made to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for a licence under the Protection of Birds Act, 1954 to use stupefying bait in order to narcotise the birds prior to killing.

The use of narcotics in bird control is still somewhat experimental. The recommended method is to pre-bait for two or three weeks with maize and then to lay a stupefying bait comprising a mixture of maize and alpha-chloralose. Care is taken to ensure that other, protected, birds which feed on the bait are allowed to recover and then released and also that any pigeons or sparrows which are stupefied are killed as quickly and humanely as possible. The baiting is carried out in the early hours of the morning to ensure that as many pigeons as possible feed on the bait as soon as they are awake. The operation achieved some measure of success and the flock was substantially reduced in number. The remainder deserted these particular roofs.

The service for the destruction and removal of wasps' nests free of charge was maintained and a total of 190 nests were dealt with during the season. Complaints of bugs and fleas were reported in 45 cases and infected premises were disinfested at a nominal charge. In addition the Department continued to deal with infestations of cockroaches, ants and other crawling and flying insect pests in school canteens and other County Council premises on a re-chargeable basis.

Visits carried out by Manual Staff:—

Rodent Control—Contracts	..	..	..	..	..	243
Rodent Control—Domestic Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	3,071
Rodent Control—Trade Premises	..	..	..	..	..	344
Rodent Control—Agriculture	..	..	..	..	..	69
Rodent Control—Council Premises	..	..	..	..	..	143
Rodent Control—Sewer Test Baiting	..	..	..	..	..	2,677
Welfare—sick room equipment, clinics, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	2,319
Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	73
Removal of condemned foods	..	..	..	..	..	110
Disposal of dead animals	..	..	..	..	..	97
Drain investigations	..	..	..	..	..	66
Disinfecting after infectious disease	..	..	..	..	..	31
Destruction of wasps nests	..	..	..	..	..	185
Incontinent laundry service	..	..	..	..	..	3,270
Disposal of night soil	..	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous (includes inter-departmental post deliveries)	..	..	..	..	..	727
						<hr/> 13,428 <hr/>

MISCELLANEOUS

Laundry Service for Incontinent Persons

Fifty-one new cases were accepted on the service during the year and the maximum number of patients receiving collection and delivery at any one time rose to 38. Early in the year it was apparent that the demands on this service were becoming sufficiently acute to warrant consideration as to whether the service should be limited to 35 patients which was felt to constitute the maximum number of cases which could be dealt with by one driver and van, or whether additional resources should be sought to deal with the increased work. Another aspect which had to be considered was the work-load on the staff at Runwell Hospital who, under existing arrangements, had only one working day of eight hours between deliveries to launder an average of 150 articles produced by the 35 cases. Any additional cases would have added to this work-load.

Although the number of cases showed a good deal of fluctuation it was not necessary, in the event, to form a waiting list but if the trend continues consideration will need to be given to increasing the facilities or decreasing the frequency of the service.

A total of 12,359 articles were laundered at Runwell Hospital during 1967.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

There were no funerals required to be carried out under this Section during the year.

District Welfare Minibus

In the first eighteen months of operation with the Council the Minibus has covered a distance of over 32,000 miles in the course of conveying the aged, infirm and handicapped to their local meetings or on summer outings and holidays occasionally to places as far afield as Yarmouth and Clacton.

9,308 "pick-ups" were undertaken and the success and popularity of this service has been so great that several applications for bookings just could not be accepted.

It is virtually impossible to operate a continuous service of this type in such high demand with only one vehicle. Efforts to do so were not eased by the resignation of two drivers during the year and the problem of arranging proper servicing and maintenance of a vehicle committed to such a heavy schedule of bookings.

The Department continued to accept bookings for the three ambulances on behalf of the Basildon Physically Handicapped Club.

Consumer Protection

Nightdresses

Twelve nightdresses were purchased and forwarded to an approved laboratory for flammability tests in accordance with the Children's Nightdresses Regulations 1964 and the Nightdresses (Safety) Regulations 1967. This latter Regulation extends the law to all types of nightdresses, with certain minor exceptions, which shall either be made of material in accordance with the British Standard Specification or have a durable label attached warning of the fire risk.

Three of the nightdresses were sampled for testing under the new Regulations and one of these was found to be unsatisfactory. The vendor was severely warned regarding this contravention.

Toys

The Toys (Safety) Regulations 1967 made under the Consumer Protection Act 1961 came into operation on the 1st November and prohibits the use of celluloid on toys offered for sale and prescribes the maximum amount of lead content in paint used in toys.

Arrangements were made for all appropriate shops and market stalls to be visited by the Public Health Inspectors and the results of our first few samples taken over the Christmas period underline the necessity for the new Regulations.

The stuffing in the body of a teddy bear failed the requirements of the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations 1961, and the paints used on plastic toy soldiers and a wooden pull-along toy were found to

have a lead content in excess of the permitted maximum. It was apparent from my enquiries that many retailers, manufacturers and importers are quite unaware of their responsibilities under the Regulations and, whilst these initial contraventions were dealt with informally, unless retailers ensure that they are covered by warranty they may find themselves liable to prosecution for an offence under the Regulations in respect of toys which might well have originated in a foreign factory.

The Stands for Carry Cots (Safety) Regulations came into force in February and are designed to ensure that any cot stands sold after that date are so constructed that they would effectively retain the carry cot in position without any possibility of over-balancing. Cases have been reported where babies were suffocated by the bed clothes falling on top of them when the carry cot tipped off the stand. My Inspectors carried out checks of the stocks held by certain retailers in the Urban District.

The Department does not confine its activities to matters covered by Regulations under the Consumer Protection Act and advice is given and informal investigation made where appropriate into all types of consumer complaints, very often with quite effective results. One such case concerned a Chinese toy harmonica which had caused a young child's mouth to take on a vivid violet hue within a few minutes of the instrument being played. The Analyst's report indicated that a violet colouring matter was used on the underside of the metal plates which formed the top and bottom of the harmonica and, whilst harmless, was a particularly undesirable fault.

The matter was taken up with both the suppliers and the importers resulting in an assurance that no further supplies of such harmonicas would be imported before an improved sample had been submitted for approval.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

Eleven separate establishments were licensed during the year, one less than in the previous year. The attention given to this work by the bi-annual visits of the Council's Veterinary Adviser with a member of my staff and the additional check visits during the peak boarding season has resulted, in general, in a satisfactory standard being attained. In addition, however, it is perhaps true to reflect that local competition for business is also an influential factor in maintaining a reasonable standard for, in my experience, animal lovers who have to select temporary homes for their dog or cat are often as fastidious about the condition of its temporary lodgings as of their own holiday accommodation.

Riding Establishments Act 1964

The sole establishment within the Urban District licensed for this purpose now enjoys a new stable building and enclosed exercise yard, the site of the original stable building being required for part of the new Basildon Hospital at present under construction. Regular inspections of the establishment and of the horses were undertaken during the year by the Council's Veterinary Adviser and conditions were found to be satisfactory. It is perhaps surprising that a district of this character supports only one riding establishment and I would have thought the rural aspects would have attracted similar establishments to the area to offer a means of exercise as an outlet for commuters or office and factory workers resident in the area.

Planning Applications

Two hundred and seventy three plans were examined in the Department during the year and observations made to the Engineer and Surveyor or direct to the developer on public health aspects.

Health Education

Several talks on specialist aspects of environmental health and the work of the Department were given by the Health Inspectors during the year.

Lectures to school children included three talks on public health as part of a G.C.E. study course for sixth formers, and talks on the Department's work to secondary schools as part of a syllabus on local government.

The Department again provided an exhibit for the Careers Exhibition in October.

Sewerage and Refuse Collection

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for information regarding these services.

Sewerage

During 1967 a foul water sewer was provided in Gardiners Close, but sanction has not yet been obtained for a sewer to serve the western end of London Road, Billericay, where most unsatisfactory conditions have prevailed.

A scheme for providing foul water sewerage to Ramsden Bellhouse, parts of Crays Hill and London Road, Wickford has been submitted for Loan Sanction and is under the consideration of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Sewage Disposal

The scheme for the extension of the grossly overloaded Shotgate Sewage Disposal Works has been the subject of an enquiry with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and has been approved in principle. Construction is scheduled to commence in the middle of 1968.

Sludge disposal is a problem of all five sewage disposal works controlled by the Council and has given rise to complaints from the public, particularly those at Mountnessing Road, Billericay. A scheme for a central sludge treatment plant to be located on a site at Pitsea adjacent to the Pitsea Sewage Disposal Works and Central Refuse Tip has been submitted to the Ministry and approved. Construction is scheduled to commence in the middle of 1968. This will enable the sludge drying beds at all the works to be abandoned, thereby eliminating the main cause of complaint.

Ministry consideration of a scheme for enlarging the overloaded Pitsea Sewage Disposal Works will take place in 1969.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Anticipating the recommendations concerning dustbin collection contained in the 1967 report of the Working Party set up by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on Refuse Collection, the progressive area by area application of the paper sack system in place of the skip method has gone forward since July 1966. By the end of the year 12,864 households were receiving the modified service representing an estimated population of 42,450 out of a total of 116,000. Unfortunately, the national economic position has resulted in a temporary halt to the planned expansion of the paper sack collection system.

HOUSING

Rehousing

The total number of applicants on the Council's Housing List at 31st December, 1967, was 658 and 176 cases were approved during the year. 1,724 families were rehoused by the Basildon Development Corporation and 532 were accommodated in new Council development, the total number of Council dwellings in the Urban District at the end of 1967 having now risen to 3,463.

Close liaison is maintained with the Housing Manager in all cases where the conditions of the applicant's dwelling may have some bearing on his rehousing priority and where necessary a representative of my Department attends the Housing Panel to advise on these.

The method of assessing priority to occupiers of properties subject to Demolition or Closing Orders continued to operate satisfactorily and 17 families were rehoused as a result of formal or informal action by my Department under the Housing Act 1957.

Two hundred and fifty nine visits were made by members of my staff in connection with overcrowding and rehousing enquiries.

Unfit Houses

Formal or informal action under the Housing Act 1957 resulted in 26 properties being demolished and 3 Closing Orders being made.

This year marked the expiration of the five-year period during which the No. 2 Slum Clearance Programme was to be undertaken. The programme was submitted to the Ministry in 1962 and originally contained 181 properties but over the five years, 305 properties have been examined and 202 dealt with by formal or informal action. At the end of December 1967, 27 properties remained. These were either at some stage in the Housing Act procedure following consideration by the Committee, or were under negotiation for ultimate demolition by the Basildon Development Corporation.

It is understood that the Ministry do not propose to ask for further formal programmes. However, it is intended that local authorities should continue to deal with unfit property in their areas as speedily as possible.

Although the 1962 Slum Clearance Programme as submitted may now be regarded as complete, I shall be continuing my reports to the Public Health Committee on individual unfit properties as these arise, either from routine inspections or from continuous review of the Department's list of sub-standard dwellings which was compiled in 1965.

Slum properties as envisaged under the Housing Act so far as big cities are concerned are virtually non-existent in this district and in recent years the number of unfit tenanted properties has spectacularly reduced due to the development of the New Town. However, there are a number of older houses, the condition of which must be kept under review. Many of these are occupied by the owners who are very often elderly and have no wish to be disturbed or rehoused by the Council in their lifetime. Whilst at the present time there may be no case for using the Council's powers under the Housing Act with the resultant upheaval and mental anguish that this could bring to these occupiers, care should be taken to ensure that once the properties are vacated they are either demolished or made fit before re-occupation.

Improvement Grants

Joint inspections are made by a Public Health Inspector and a member of the Engineer and Surveyor's staff to investigate applications for Standard Improvement Grants.

My Department is concerned with fitness of the dwelling for human habitation and, where the premises are found to fall short of the Housing Act standard, a specification of the work required to be carried out is passed to the Engineer and Surveyor before payment of the grant.

Forty-nine applications were dealt with during the year.

Other Housing Matters

Following a report of the Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee published under the title, "Our Older Homes – A Call for Action", the Ministry arranged for a random sample of some 6,000 dwellings spread over 250 local authorities and Basildon was one of the local authorities selected for this survey. A Public Health Inspector seconded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was accompanied on the inspection of a random sample of 16 houses in the Urban District of all ages and types.

131 complaints of housing defects were received during the year and all of these were dealt with under the Public Health Act. Statutory Notices were served in seven cases but these did not result in legal proceedings.

Following complaints concerning the overcrowding of a house in Wickford, some difficulty was experienced in gaining access to discover whether these complaints could be substantiated. An inspection was eventually carried out under a Magistrates Warrant when it was found that the property was occupied by two families comprising ten adult persons. The matter was reported to the Public Health Committee and instructions were given to serve a Notice of Overcrowding in accordance with the provisions of Section 78 of the Housing Act 1957, as a result of which one of the families left the property and no further action became necessary.

There are now a considerable number of methods on the market designed to deal with the problem of defective or absent damp-proof course in an existing property. The traditional methods of inserting a new slate or brick damp-proof course by replacement of parts of the wall in short lengths and even the less costly method of inserting a damp-proof membrane in power-sawn slots are now experiencing considerable competition from the more sophisticated processes of electro-osmosis, chemical transfusion and mortar injection. When one of these processes has been specified in a schedule of work submitted to my Department for approval under the Housing Act, it has been my policy to obtain the views of the Building Research Station on the efficacy of the method. Their permanent effectiveness can only be discovered in the long term but, with guarantees of up to 20 years in some instances, it seems that the installers have every faith in their processes.

Rent Act 1957—Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received in the year under review and only 30 have been dealt with since the coming into operation of the Act.

Land Charges Act 1925

2,178 searches in respect of properties were dealt with by the Department during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

The problem of gypsy encampments is widespread but in recent years Basildon appears to have become one of the focal points for gypsies in this part of Essex. The large acreage of vacant scrub land awaiting development, particularly south of the Arterial Road, offers greater opportunity for unauthorised camping than is available in many other urbanised areas of the south-east, and indiscriminate dumping of rubbish and fouling of the ground quickly creates a public health problem at most of these sites. Romany gypsies, who are more hygiene conscious than many others probably constitute less than one third of the total population of travellers in this Country. A network of sites throughout the Country is needed but the problem is a national one not likely to be solved by the piecemeal efforts of a few local authorities.

The Council's Housing Committee agreed to allocate three Council dwellings per year for the rehousing of gypsy families from encampments within the Urban District.

CLEAN AIR

Domestic Smoke Control Programme

Two Smoke Control Orders became operative on the 1st October. The Number 5 Order affecting part of Vange includes 646 dwellings, which is a continuation of the existing smoke control areas to the south-east of the New Town. The area affected by the Number 6 Order is at Pitsea and includes 457 existing dwellings the majority of which are Council houses. It is interesting to note now that a wider range of appliances are eligible for grant, there is an ever increasing trend away from the traditional open fire in favour of solid fuel room heaters and gas convectors, both of which are more efficient appliances.

Although a survey of a second area in Pitsea was undertaken it was decided that the time was not opportune to consider this district for inclusion on the programme owing to the high proportion of the dwellings likely to be affected by Basildon Corporation re-development schemes which have yet to be finalised. It was decided to extend the programme to another township in the Urban District and consequently an area of 470 acres at South Green, Billericay was selected as the starting point enveloping almost 1,700 dwellings. The South Green area is to the south of Billericay town centre and incorporates quite a high proportion of Council houses which, by their inclusion, should give a lead to private householders.

Orders already operative

<i>Smoke Control Area No.</i>	<i>Operative Date</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total No. of Dwelling Houses</i>
1	1.9.59	260	2,200
2	1.10.64	890	4,400
3	1.9.65	1,162	6,450
4	1.10.66	439	1,658
5	1.10.67	283	646
6	1.10.67	120	457
<i>Total:</i>		3,154	15,811

Orders Submitted for confirmation by the Minister of Housing and Local Government

<i>Smoke Control Area No.</i>	<i>Suggested Operative Date</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Total No. of Dwelling Houses</i>
7	1.10.68	470	1,691

Applications for Prior Approval

One application for approval of a proposed boiler installation was received and eventually approved by the Council. In this instance the original proposal showed a chimney height of 45 feet but an increase to 82 feet was required to ensure adequate dispersal of the flue gases.

Notifications of New Furnaces and Control of Chimney Heights

Twenty-nine notifications of intention to instal new furnaces, as required by Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956 were received, the majority of which concerned relatively small installations. Agreements as to acceptable chimney heights were generally reached before the plans were submitted but in one case protracted correspondence and a site meeting were needed before a height acceptable to the Department was agreed.

Towards the end of the year a second edition of the memorandum on chimney heights was published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, this useful guide having been revised in the light of experience. The main changes have taken account of the fact that the original memorandum tended to be over severe in cases of small installations by suggesting a minimum flue height of 40 feet for any installation falling within the scope of the memorandum. The new publication allows for a minimum chimney height of 25 feet. Plants emitting less than 3 lbs. per hour of sulphur dioxide will be outside the scope of the memorandum.

Measurement of Air Pollution

The Council agreed to the purchase and installation during the financial year commencing 1st April of two 8-port volumetric instruments to measure the amount of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. As the whole of the existing New Town is now subject to smoke control and Billericay and Wickford, the other main townships within the Urban District, have yet to be included in the programme it was considered an appropriate time to bring these instruments into use, one situated centrally in the New Town Area and the other in either Billericay or Wickford. The survey of possible sites and finalising all arrangements between interested parties for the installation of these instruments was a time consuming exercise but both instruments will be fully operational in early 1968. The instruments will be sited at Bader House, Witchards, Basildon and Wickford Police Station and I would like to record my appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health and to the Police Authority of the Essex County Council for their agreement to the siting of the instruments within buildings under their control.

I am also grateful to the staff of the Director of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Air Pollution Division, Stevenage, and particularly to Mr. J. R. Goss and Miss Toler for advice and practical assistance in connection with the selection of sites and the setting up of the apparatus.

Industrial Smoke Offences

Three cases where dark or black smoke were emitted in excess of the amount allowed under the Dark Smoke Permitted Periods Regulations 1958 were observed during the year. Following investigation, warnings were issued in each case as the contraventions resulted from mechanical failure of plant and were rectified with the minimum of delay.

Several complaints were received during the year from householders adjoining a large garage regarding smoke and fume nuisance from the oil-fired heater units. Lack of maintenance proved to be the major cause of the problem and it was also found that interference with pre-set controls by unauthorised persons in an effort to increase the temperature in the working area caused the fuel/air ratio to become unbalanced thereby adding to the problem. This nuisance recurs from time to time.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Registrations and Inspections

Having completed, last year, an initial general inspection of all registered premises, the accent this year has been on follow-up visits to ensure that the work required by previous notices was being satisfactorily dealt with. In addition, however, 259 general inspections including all premises newly registered during the year were carried out.

In any area, and particularly one such as this which is undergoing rapid redevelopment, it is difficult to maintain a register of premises with any pretension to absolute accuracy, particularly when the number of staff employed is the main criterion for registration. As the Council's register was first compiled during the latter part of 1963 and early 1964 a special effort has been made this year to overhaul this register and so arrive at a figure which on the 31st December 1967 may be regarded as accurate. The result reveals that the Council were responsible for enforcing the Act in respect of 785 premises, as at that date, covering 8,280 employees.

Attitude of Employers and Employees

In a few cases initial reluctance has been noted on the part of certain employers in offices to allow access, or agree on the standards required by the Act, particularly in premises which previously have been outside the scope of legislation requiring regular inspection. However, it has usually transpired that the initial difficulties were more apparent than real and such employers have invariably discovered my staff to be willing and quite able to discharge their responsibilities with minimal disturbance to their own calling.

In the case of employees a gradual change of attitude is discernible resulting in more enquiries and complaints from this source than in the past. Perhaps because improved conditions have resulted from previous inspections employees are realising that this legislation is primarily for their benefit and furthermore are realising that such complaints are treated in strict confidence.

Enforcement

With fewer general inspections it is understandable that fewer informal notices were served than in the previous year but progress has continued to be made in obtaining improved conditions for employees

affected by this legislation. It is worthy of comment that this has been achieved without the need to resort to legal action and this is a reflection on the co-operation received in implementing the legislation to date. Individual employers have complained of difficulty in obtaining the Abstract of the Act or alternative booklet through local newsagents and in order to assist occupiers the Department is to purchase a number of copies from Her Majesty's Stationery Office for resale within the District.

Special attention was paid during the winter months to checking the effectiveness of heating arrangements and improved standards are being attained. More positive means of ventilation are being required where necessary and the advantages of mechanical ventilation are often secured. An architect representing one grocery company suggested that the heat dissipated from refrigeration equipment situated in a store room would be sufficient to heat this particular room to the legal standard. A temperature check dismissed this as a viable suggestion and the employees now have the benefit of electric fan heaters to support the efforts of the refrigerator plant in the winter and improve ventilation to disperse the results of its labours in the summer.

The Council are at present awaiting the opinion of the Ministry of Labour on the safety aspects of several designs of imported power-driven food machines which were not considered to be adequately guarded. On request H.M. Deputy Superintending Inspector of Factories for this region visited the premises to inspect the machinery and this is an example of the close co-operation being achieved towards a common end.

Notification of Accidents

Whilst the number of accidents notified increased by 100% compared with last year, this probably reflects an increasing awareness among employers of their obligation under the Act to notify accidents among their staff rather than any increased carelessness on the part of the employees. However, it is thought likely that many shopkeepers, especially in smaller businesses, still do not appreciate their legal responsibility to notify the Council of any accident to their employees which causes absence from work for more than three days.

Whilst none of the accidents reported were sufficiently serious to result in the loss of life or limb one case could have proved fatal when a junior assistant in a supermarket jumped on to a moving conveyor belt used for transporting delivered goods to the first floor store room. His foot became trapped between two wooden slats and only his good fortune, on reaching first floor level, in being thrown towards the control switch and his quick reaction in switching off the power prevented a very serious accident. As it was he suffered a fractured leg and toe.

Contraventions

The following contraventions were reported by my staff:—

					<i>Shops</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Temperature	..	..	..	36	4	40
2.	Washing facilities		..	..	7	4	11
3.	Drinking water	..	..	..	8	2	10
4.	Ventilation	..	..	..	26	2	28
5.	Redecoration and repairs		..	..	28	2	30
6.	Provision/repair of floor covering			..	21	—	21

		<i>Shops</i>	<i>Offices</i>	<i>Total</i>
7.	Provision of thermometers	32	12	44
8.	Provision of clothing accommodation and drying facilities for same ..	5	2	7
9.	Provision of first aid kits	40	11	51
10.	General cleanliness	12	1	13
11.	Stairs, passages, etc. to be free from obstruction	6	—	6
12.	Overcrowding	—	1	1
13.	Insufficient lighting	16	3	19
14.	Provision of W.C.'s	1	3	4
15.	Provision of hot water to existing wash basins	23	2	25
16.	Provision of seats and tables	3	—	3
17.	Marking of doors of W.C.'s indicating sexes	1	2	3
18.	Door closers to W.C. compartment doors	2	—	2
19.	Provision of handrails to staircases ..	10	1	11
20.	Provision of intervening ventilated space	10	1	11
21.	Abstract of the Act	67	14	81
22.	Inadequate guards to machinery ..	18	—	18
23.	Rinsing of drinking vessels	3	5	8
24.	Provision of drinking vessels	1	—	1
25.	Dangerous gully surround	2	—	2
26.	Provision of electric power for lighting and heating	—	1	1
27.	Refuse accumulations	5	—	5

FOOD

Food Hygiene

In order to maintain up-to-date records of food premises and to ensure programmed inspection, a visible card system is utilised in which every type of food premises in the Urban District is recorded and categorised. Details of contraventions and the progress made with each visit are entered on each card, and a signalling system ensures that the particular premises are brought to the District Inspector's attention at the appropriate time.

Whilst pressure of other work and staff shortages have frequently combined to prevent this simple system from being operated yet to peak efficiency, its benefits in progressing regular inspections and in classifying premises with a common trade have been demonstrated. A total of 1,902 visits were made to food premises in the Urban District during the year and 400 contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 were discovered.

The popularity of the Chinese restaurant has grown phenomenally in Britain in the last few years. Three Chinese restaurants are now operating in Basildon Town Centre and a fourth opened in Billericay this year. From the health education aspect the language barrier has in the past created difficulties in ensuring that the restaurant staff, who are always entirely of Chinese origin, fully appreciate their legal responsibilities to the public under the Food Hygiene Regulations. To endeavour to overcome this difficulty a supply of pamphlets on clean food handling written in Chinese characters has been distributed to workers in these restaurants. The statutory "Now Wash Your Hands" notice has also been translated for display in the staff wash rooms.

Markets

The first full year of operating the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 has brought many problems, more particularly in connection with food stalls in the three markets in the Urban District.

Following discussions at an early stage with the Treasurer, the officer responsible for the administration of the Council controlled market, my suggestions concerning the enforcement of the Regulations in Basildon Market were considered by the Public Health and Finance Committees.

I felt that the Council had an opportunity in the market under their control to interpret specifically certain requirements of the Regulations in order to cater for the particular circumstances of the market and, at the same time, to ensure that a consistent standard of food hygiene would be maintained.

The main items which came under consideration were:

1. A requirement that suitable screening should be provided by the stallholders to protect open food from contamination by customers.
2. That wash basins should be provided on stalls where open food was sold and that these wash basins should be of a type fitted with integral waste tanks or other suitable means for the collection of waste water so as to cause no nuisance.
3. The Council agreed to provide a hot water tap in the sink room attached to the market store for washing equipment.
4. A system of free tickets was instituted for certain other stallholders to allow them access to washing facilities in the adjacent conveniences.

Good progress was made generally during the year in obtaining compliance by stallholders with other requirements of the Regulations, in particular the screening of stalls and the protection of food from contamination.

The transitional period at Wickford Market did not go as smoothly and by the end of the year serious consideration was being given to prosecuting certain offenders for contravention of the Regulations. In addition, the market site leaves much to be desired both as regards surfacing and drainage, and the system of cleansing the market area during and at the close of business is not entirely satisfactory.

Conditions at Pitsea Market, which is now under the control of the Basildon Development Corporation, are generally satisfactory. Further discussions took place with Officers of the Development Corporation on food hygiene matters in connection with the relocation of Pitsea Market and I am pleased to report that general agreement was reached in all my suggestions.

The number of food stalls operating in markets in the Urban District at the end of 1967 was as follows:—

Basildon Market	20
Pitsea Market	20
Wickford Market	10

Prosecution of Offences

Proceedings were taken at Billericay Magistrates' Court in October against an operator of an ice cream vehicle for offences under the Noise Abatement Act 1960, Essex County Council Act 1952, and the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966. The Magistrates found the case proved on all charges and fines were imposed to a total of £13.

Registration of Premises under Section 16. Food and Drugs Act 1955

Fifteen new applications for the manufacture or storage of ice cream intended for sale were received during the year under review, bringing the total number of registered premises to 176. Ten new applications for the preparation or manufacture of sausages and preserved foods were received.

Essex County Council Act 1952—Section 103

Forty-one additional persons were approved as hawkers of foodstuffs and the total number on the register at the end of the year was 56. With the considerable movement of persons in and out of the food hawking business it has been found convenient to use this Section, which requires the registration of food hawkers, as a means of "rounding up" operators and vehicles once a year for fuller inspection under the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

Merchandise Marks Act 1926

One hundred and seventeen visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of this Act, involving the surveillance of shops and markets in the District in order to discover any contraventions relating to the marking of certain foodstuffs. Regular visits were also made to school canteens to check the description and condition of meat delivered under contract.

Ice Cream Production and Sampling

The Department's programme of bacteriological sampling of ice cream and ice cream mix from vans, cafes and depots in the Urban District was maintained and a total of 324 samples were taken.

A proportion of unsatisfactory methylene blue gradings was recorded in samples of soft ice cream taken from one depot. It was discovered that the pasteurised ice cream mix being delivered to the Basildon Depot from the factory in Hertfordshire was sometimes several days old on arrival, which meant that the mix was often being used towards the end of its storage life and was constantly being returned for re-pasteurisation. These and several other matters were taken up with the Company and arrangements were made for daily samples from the production line to be retained and checked for bacteriological quality at the end of 10 days. Investigations were also carried out into temperature fluctuations on the refrigerated vehicles delivering to the depot.

Slackness by the vehicle operators in sterilisation and cleansing techniques was, unfortunately, still evident by the divergence in comparative methylene blue results on the mix and the ice cream after passing through the vehicle freezers. The constant turnover of driver/salesmen renders their education in such matters a never-ending uphill task.

Results of samples of ice cream mix and ice cream taken for bacteriological examination are as follows:—

Ice Cream Mix

					<i>Grades</i>				<i>Totals</i>
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	
From Depots	..	..	..	..	22	1	2	1	26
From Shop Vendors	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
From Mobile Vendors	..	..	..	..	74	2	5	9	90
					Plus 6 void				

Ice Cream

					<i>Grades</i>				<i>Totals</i>
					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	
From Depots	..	..	..	..	5	—	1	—	6
From Shop Vendors	..	..	..	..	54	11	6	4	75
From Mobile Vendors	..	..	..	..	80	14	18	3	115
					Plus 6 void				

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Premises	Number of Premises	Number Fitted to comply Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 applies	Number which comply Reg. 19
Bakers	17	17	17	17
Butchers	38	38	38	38
Cafes	49	48	49	49
Confectioners	69	69	—	—
School Canteens	63	63	63	63
Factory and Stores Canteens	67	66	67	67
Other Canteens	12	12	12	12
Wet and Fried Fishmongers	9	9	9	9
Grocers	91	91	91	91
Greengrocers	36	34	29	29
Supermarkets	28	28	28	28
Licensed Premises	43	43	43	43
Off Licences	17	16	—	11
Manufacturing Premises	11	11	11	11

Contraventions

The summary of contraventions found under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 is as follows:—

Accumulations of refuse—removal of	11
Artificial lighting—provision of	8
Channels—cleanse or repair	1
Cleansing—general	25
Cleansing—walls, floors, ceilings, doors	32
Dustbins—provide	17
Extraneous matter—remove	7
First aid kits—provide	5
Fittings and fixtures—cleanse	4
Flies and birds—precautions and screens	2
Floors and floor covering—defective	22
Food—exposed to contamination	13
Glazing—renew	1
Hot water—provide	26
Lockers for clothing—provide or repair	12
Overalls—provide	1
Personal hygiene—contravention	1
Redecorations	58
Refrigerator—cleanse	8
—repair	1
Repairs—general	13
Repairs—walls, doors and pipes	14
Roof/guttering—repair	1
Shelves—cleanse or resurface	22
Sinks—renew or provide	15
Soap, towel, nailbrush—provide	17
Staircase—defective treads	1
Storage—provide	2
—room containing W.C. used for storage	1
—unsatisfactory	6
Tiles—renew	7
Unhygienic equipment	11
Ventilated lobby—provide	1
Ventilation—provide adequate	7
Walls and ceilings—provide washable surface	6
Washable bins for refuse—provide	1
Wash hands notice—provide	6
Water supply—reinstate	1
W.C.—cleanse or repair	3
Yard—cleanse or repair	5

Total: 395

Bacteriological Sampling of Cooked Meats, etc.

In the absence of accepted bacteriological standards for foods of this type, the results of our sampling programme should be regarded as an indication of trends in the handling and storage of a particular food and a single unsatisfactory sample should not be judged out of context. However, such sampling lends practical support to our efforts to convince retailers and their employees of the necessity for care and vigilance in serving and storing these products and may serve to demonstrate that correct handling in fact means no handling.

The sampling of cream confectionery continued and time was devoted to obtaining follow-up samples rather than commencing new investigations. Of 20 samples of cream cakes and pasteurised cream taken at a local bakery, 14 were found to be unsatisfactory having very high plate counts, and in 9 instances, *E. coli* was present in 0.1 gram.

Inefficient storage of the cream before use was believed to be the root cause of the sub-standard results obtained from unopened or part-used bulk storage tins and investigation into the handling methods at the bakery is being continued.

A total of 125 samples of all types were taken during the year.

<i>Food Sampled</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Outlets</i>	<i>No. considered Unsatisfactory</i>
Cooked meats	71	50	43
Cream	54	20	36

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

Twenty-four dealers' licences for the sale of pre-packed milk under special designation were issued during the year.

Control of Milk Supplies

One pasteuriser's licence under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963 is in operation in respect of the processing dairy on the No. 1 Industrial Estate at Basildon.

Approximately 110,000 gallons of milk are processed here weekly and samples of all grades of milk were taken regularly by my Department for the statutory methylene blue and phosphatase tests. Checks on the efficient cleansing operations of the bottle and churn washing plant were made by bacteriological examination of rinsings taken from sample churns and bottles.

Details of samples taken for bacteriological examination from this dairy and other retailing sources, including 37 samples of school milk are as follows:—

Milk	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	150	149	1
Pasteurised (Homogenised)	62	61	1
Channel Island (Pasteurised)	37	37	—
Sterilized	5	5	—
	<hr/> 254	<hr/> 252	<hr/> 2

Churn and Bottle Rinsings

			<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Churns	..	..	143	134	9
Bottles	..	..	149	144	5

The programme for sampling and testing of raw milk from farms within the Urban District for the presence of antibiotics had to be curtailed during the last quarter of the year due to the foot and mouth disease epidemic. Despite this, 26 informal samples were tested by the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford, both for the presence of antibiotics and for brucella abortus. All the samples were found to be satisfactory in both respects.

Informal Testing of Milk and Milk Products

The small laboratory within the Department is used to carry out basic chemical analyses of informal samples of milk and milk products and continued to operate satisfactorily during the year.

The number and range of samples tested within the Department is as follows:—

Milks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Butter	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Yoghurt	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cheeses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Total:								143

Sampling of Food and Drugs

In the course of the year 219 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst who commented adversely on 8 samples. The following table shows the range of articles sampled:—

Articles Sampled	<i>Samples Analysed</i>	<i>Samples Unsatisfactory</i>
Abalone	1	—
Acetazolamide	1	—
Almonds, ground	2	—
Apple drink	1	—
Apples	1	—
Apricot wine	1	—
Aromat seasoning	1	—
Baby food	1	—
Beef risotto	1	—
Beef steak pie	1	—
Beetroot	2	—
Birds nest soup	1	—
Bitter lemon drink	3	—
Blackcurrant cordial	2	—
Blackcurrant drink	4	—

Articles Sampled	Samples Analysed	Samples Unsatisfactory
Blancmange powder	1	—
Boursin with garlic and herbs	1	—
Butter	2	—
Butter beans	1	—
Buttered cheese spread	1	—
Buttermilk	1	—
Cheese	7	1
Cheese blended with beer	3	—
Cheese sauce mix	1	—
Cheese spread	2	—
Cherries	1	—
Chestnut puree	1	—
Chicken and ham pie	1	—
Chili sauce	1	—
Chocolate flavoured drink	1	—
Chopped ham with pork	1	—
Christmas pudding	2	—
Cockles	1	—
Coffee, instant	2	—
Coffee and chicory essence	1	—
Cola and rum	1	1
Coleslaw dressing	1	—
Cooked mussels	1	—
Cornish pasty	2	—
Crab spread with butter	2	—
Cream	1	—
Cream, soured	1	—
Creamed horseradish	2	—
Creamed macaroni milk pudding	1	—
Cream of tartar	1	—
Curry powder	1	—
Damson wine	1	—
Dates	1	—
Dietary loaf	1	—
Dramamine	1	—
Dressed crab	1	—
Dried fruit mixture	1	—
Dubonnet	1	—
Eggs	2	—
Essence of rennet	1	—
Fanta (soft drink)	1	—
Foam crystals	1	—
Formaldehyde Lozenges	1	—
Fried rice	1	—
Fruit chutney	1	—
Groundnut oil	1	—
Ham and chicken roll	1	—
Hamburgers	1	—
Horseradish and beetroot	1	—
Hot mango kascondie	1	—
Ice cream mix	1	—
Ice cream powder	4	—
Jam	4	—

Articles Sampled	Samples Analysed	Samples Unsatisfactory
Lamb garni	1	1
Lemonade crystals	1	—
Lemon cheese	1	—
Lemon drink	3	—
Liquid chocolate	1	—
Liquid lolly	4	—
Liver 'n bacon spread	1	—
Malt vinegar	2	—
Mandarin oranges	1	—
Margarine	2	—
Marzipan	1	—
Meatless steaks	1	—
Milk, evaporated	1	—
Milk	2	—
Milk shake syrup	2	—
Minced beef loaf	1	—
Mincemeat	3	—
Mint	1	—
Minute steakettes	1	—
Mixed fruit	1	—
Mixed peel	3	—
Mixed spice	1	—
Mixed vegetables, dried	1	—
Mushroom ketchup	1	—
Nut meat	1	—
Orange crush	2	—
Orange drink	2	—
Orange squash	2	2
Origan	1	—
Paste	3	—
Pie filling	2	—
Pineapple	4	—
Pork and chicken sausages	1	—
Pork chipolatas	1	—
Pork pie	3	—
Port	1	—
Potato, instant	2	—
Potted beef with butter	1	—
Prawn crackers	1	—
Prawn curry	1	—
Quick trifle	1	—
Red bean curd	1	—
Redi-milk	1	1
Rice, ground	1	—
Rum flavouring	1	—
Sauce bolognese	1	—
Sausage meat, pork	1	—
Sausages, beef	4	1
Sausages, pork	2	—
Shandy	1	—
Sherry	1	—
Smatana	2	—
Smoked cod roe	1	—

Articles Sampled					Samples Analysed	Samples Unsatisfactory
Smoked goose pate .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Soup .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Sponge .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Steak and kidney pie .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6	—
Steak pie .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Stock pot .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Sugar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Sunny spread .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	—
Sweets .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8	—
Toasty grill .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Tomato juice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Tomato puree .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1
Top of the milk .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Trimetts .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Tropical lemon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Turkey spread .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Veal curry .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Vinaigre de vin .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Vinegar .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Vita cup .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Wine cocktail .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Yeast extract .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
Yoghurt .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	—
Totals:					219	8

Non-Genuine Samples

Details concerning non-genuine samples and action taken are set out below:—

Beef Sausages

These sausages were found to be preserved with sulphur dioxide but no declaration of preservative was given at the time of sale. Neither was the Manufacturer's name and address displayed on the wrapper. The Manufacturer of the sausages was cautioned regarding future compliance with both the Preservatives in Food Regulation 1962 and the Labelling of Food Order 1953.

Lamb Garni

The meat content was considered insufficient to justify the description Lamb Garni and this point was taken up with the Manufacturers.

Gouda Cheese

This sample of cheese was found to be deficient of fat by 2.7%. The Manufacturers stated that the cheese was sold as a Gouda type cheese. A warning letter was sent to the vendor regarding compliance with legislation as to the marking of cheese and this particular cheese was withdrawn from sale.

Dried Milk

The moisture content was found to be in excess of the limit laid down in the Dried Milk Regulations 1965. This matter was taken up with the Manufacturer who explained that the product absorbed moisture very quickly once the parchment disc beneath the lid had been broken.

Cola and Rum

The rum content in the preparation was considered low for an article described as cola and rum. This product was found to have been discontinued earlier in the year and very little stock was thought to be left in general sale.

Orange Squash

The Vitamin "C" content of the sample was found to be only one fifth of the amount claimed on the label. The Manufacturers of this imported squash claimed an error took place during one of three shifts producing the drink when a change of recipe was introduced but one shift continued with the old recipe. A further sample was submitted which satisfied the Manufacturer's claim in respect of the Vitamin "C" content but the Vitamin "A" content was deficient. However, the Manufacturer had previously intimated that new labels were being printed to include a reduced Vitamin "A" content below the amount included in the second sample.

Tomato Puree

The tin content of the sample was excessive and the iron content was also on the high side. This was due to severe attack by the contents on the tin plate. The Importers stated that the tin was of a batch produced in 1966 and all the tins at the point of sampling were withdrawn from sale.

Food Complaints

A total of 101 food complaints were received, and from the following tables it will be seen that these were of infinite variety although various foreign body and mould complaints predominate.

The full investigation of a food complaint is often a time-consuming task. After interviewing the complainant, the retailer's premises are visited and in cases involving large companies a representative from head office is invited to call and discuss the matter. In the majority of complaints the manufacturer of the food is invited either to call for interview or to submit a written statement and where appropriate the public health authorities in that area may be consulted. In certain cases the article of food is submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The statements of evidence and supporting material are then passed to the Council's Solicitor for preliminary consideration and this may be followed by further investigations. Where a *prima facie* case exists the whole history is reported to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee for their decision.

Thus many people and several days' work may be involved before action on a single food complaint is brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

A food complaint investigation can occasionally have its amusing aspects. Whilst investigating a complaint of mouldy sausages, my Inspector found himself embroiled in a domestic quarrel. Having enquired whether the sausages had been purchased on that day, the housewife replied, "No, I bought them three weeks ago and I keep throwing them out but my husband keeps getting them out of the dustbin and putting them back in the fridge. I want you to condemn them."

Food Complaints Referred to the Public Analyst

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Foreign matter in bread	Microscopical examination showed that the pellets consisted mainly of charred dough containing traces of silicious matter or grit and fragments of hessian fibre.	Warning letter to bakery.
Foreign matter in bread	Examination of discoloured area showed that it was caused by the presence of minute particles of charred dough.	Warning letter to bakery.
Unsound tin of ham	The cut surfaces of the large mass and the whole slice each showed a brown stain measuring approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " by $\frac{3}{8}$ " in corresponding positions and approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the side of the can. There was a slight similar stain in the half slice of the meat. Analysis showed that the stains were caused by the presence of traces of iron.	Letter to manufacturer.
Buttered roll—suspected margarine.	Fat consisted of butter.	No action.
Foreign matter in bread.	Examination of the brown matter showed that it was caused by the incorporation of a small quantity of whole-meal dough.	Warning letter to bakery.
Foreign matter in bottle of milk.	This sample consisted of a whitish mass about $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter which is alleged to have been found in a bottle of milk. Examination showed that the mass consisted of a clot of milk solids and butter-fat.	Warning letter to dairy.
Foreign matter in bread.	This sample consisted of a fragment of white bread measuring approximately 2" by $\frac{3}{4}$ " by $\frac{1}{4}$ " which on examination was found to contain a blackish pellet about $\frac{3}{10}$ " long, embedded in the edge of the bread. Microscopical examination showed that the pellet consisted of charred dough.	Warning letter to bakery.
Foreign matter in bread.	This sample consisted of a number of crumbs and fragments of toasted white bread. One small fragment contained a cylindrical blackish pellet about $\frac{1}{8}$ " long. Microscopical examination showed that the pellet consisted of charred dough.	Warning letter to bakery.

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Analyst's Report</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Sponge covered with dust.	Examination of the black specks showed that they consisted of charred oily dough containing traces of iron.	Warning letter to manufacturers.
Unsound sausages. (This sample was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford for bacteriological examination).	No harmful bacteria isolated.	Sour taste possibly due to type of seasoning used. No further action.
Metal in corned beef.	This sample consisted of a fragment of a slice of bread measuring 2" by 1" together with several pieces of corned beef. The sample also included a flake of greyish metal measuring about 5mm. by 3 mm. and also a spherical mass of similar metal about $2\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. The flake of metal was found to weigh 68 milligrams and the spherical mass 180 milligrams. Examination showed traces of fatty matter adhering to both pieces of metal which were found to consist substantially of lead.	Enquiries failed to find cause. No further action.
Foreign matter in bread.	Microscopical examination showed that the brownish matter consisted of brown dough.	Letter to bakery.
Dirt in bread.	This sample consisted of a number of small fragments of brown bread. One of the fragments showed a blackish cylindrical pellet about $\frac{1}{8}$ " long firmly embedded in the bread. Microscopical examination showed that the blackish pellet consisted of closely compacted yeast organisms.	No further action.
Dirt in bottle of milk.	As received the milk was in a partly sour condition and layer of fat which had separated at the top of the bottle showed the presence of a number of smallish brownish fragments of foreign matter. Similar smallish fragments of foreign matter were also found floating in the milk on the bottom of the bottle. Examination of this foreign matter showed that it consisted of mould growth.	Warning letter to bottling dairy.

*Nature of
Complaint**Analyst's Report**Action Taken*

Cigarette end
in cockles

This sample consisted of the inner part of a cigarette filter tip which was alleged to have been found in cockles. The outer paper had been stripped from the filter end and no tobacco remained attached to it. One end of the filter was, however, charred. I have carefully examined the filter both microscopically and chemically for traces of cockles or extractives of salt but with entirely negative results. I am unable, therefore, to find any evidence to show whether or not this cigarette filter tip had been processed with cockles.

Warning
letter to
vendor.

Mildewed tins
of pineapple.

Sample contained the following substances in proportions as under:—

Lead—5.8 parts per million.

Tin—139 parts per million.

The Lead in Food Regulations 1961 prescribe a maximum limit for lead in food of this type of 2 parts per million. The lead content of this sample, therefore exceeds this maximum limit.

Further
samples
submitted to
Analyst found
free from
metallic
contamination.
Remaining
stocks to be
checked
before use.

Food Complaints Where Analysis Was Not Required

<i>Nature of Complaint</i>	<i>Action</i>
Beetle in tin of blackberries	Warning letter to Importers.
Alleged dirty milk bottles	Complaint not substantiated. No action.
Bristle in bread	Bristle from brush comparable with the type used in the bakery for cleaning worktops. Warning letter to bakery. Adoption of scrapers suggested.
Glass in sausage.	Insufficient evidence for prosecution. Letter to vendor.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to bottling dairy.
Alleged glass in liqueur chocolates	Complaint not substantiated. Found to be crystallised sugar. No action.
Insects in tin of fruit	Insufficient evidence of origin of can. No action.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to bottling dairy.
Sour carton of milk	Coding methods checked and overhauled.
Foreign matter in jam tart	Foreign matter not identified. Warning letter to manufacturer.
Cyst in leg of lamb	Meat exchanged. No further action.
Unsound mince meat	Complaint not substantiated. No action.
Tainted rice	Referred to Health Department, London Borough of Newham as article purchased in that area.
Unsound tin of tomatoes	Contents thrown away by complainant. Stocks withdrawn from sale. No further action possible.
Metal in loaf of bread	Found to be bent conveyor belt pin left after maintenance work. Warning letter.
Dirty milk bottle	Caution to bottling dairy.
Mildew on blackcurrant jam	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Mouldy and sour sausages	Legal proceedings. Fined £20.
Unsatisfactory cheese	Excess moisture but fit for consumption.
Unsatisfactory tarts	Complaint not substantiated. No action.
Wire in tin of spaghetti	Origin of wire could not be traced.

*Nature of Complaint**Action*

Mouldy loaf of bread

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint.

Alleged ants in jam tart

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint.

Alleged unsound pork chops

Complaint not substantiated. No action.

Unsound tin of herring roes

No action due to lapse of time between purchase of article and complaint. Remaining stocks examined and found to be fit.

Unsatisfactory portion of meat pie

Stain thought to be caused by worn plating of tin container. No further action.

Foreign matter in chicken croquette

Found to be a piece of unchopped onion. No further action.

Dirty milk bottle.

Warning letter to bottling dairy.

Foreign matter in tin of grapefruit

No action. Can and contents discarded by complainant.

Bread containing discoloured parts of dough

Warning letter to bakery.

Insects in flour

Action taken to ensure regular cleansing and fumigation of flour store.

Dirty loaf of bread

Warning letter to bakery.

Mouldy chocolates

Warning letter to shopkeeper regarding rotation of stock.

Metal in loaf of bread

Found to be a nut and the threaded portion of a bolt. Legal proceedings. Fine £20 with £5 costs.

Mouldy loaf of bread

Mould first noticed three days after purchase. No action.

Foreign matter in frozen fish

Identified as parasitic worm. Warning letter to packers.

Mouldy pre-wrapped cheese

Warning letter to retailers.

Mouldy meat croquettes

Manufacturer asked to re-examine shelf life for croquettes. Warning letter sent to manufacturer and retailer.

Mouldy wrapped loaf

Warning letter to bakery and to retailer regarding stock rotation.

Greenfly on salad

Proprietor of restaurant cautioned. Recommendations regarding working conditions and methods of cleansing.

*Nature of Complaint**Action*

Shepherds pie meal suspected of causing illness

Laboratory report revealed no food poisoning organisms. No further action.

Bluebottle in orange juice

Warning letter to caterers suggesting more definite instructions about removing from sale any food on display which is not fit for sale.

Mouldy pork pies

Warning letter to retailer regarding coding of pies.

Mouldy loaf of bread

Warning letter to bakery regarding stock rotation.

Sour meat pie

Matter referred to Southend County Borough Council as purchased in that area.

Dead fly in chips

Warning letter to retailers.

Mouldy pork pie

Warning letter to retailers stressing the need for strict stock rotation.

Mouldy bread

Warning to bakery.

Sour sausages

Warning letter to manufacturers.

Mouldy ginger bread cake

Complaint withdrawn by complainant.

Unsound sausages

Sour odour due to excessive preservative. Warning letter to manufacturers.

Dirty milk bottle

Milk solids formed after prolonged storage by complainant. No action.

Mouldy pork pie

Warning letter to retailers regarding stock rotation.

Chain link in tin of carrots

Complaint withdrawn.

Mouldy cake

Warning letter to manufacturer resulting in new coding system being adopted.

Foreign body in jam tarts

Found to be a wood screw. Letter to manufacturers suggesting an improvement in the design of jam tart cartons to prevent entry of extraneous objects.

Fly in cake

Warning letter to manufacturers. Use of Electrocutor system in bakery recommended.

Dirty milk bottle

Caution to dairy.

Unsound pork

Not possible to ascertain whether meat was unsound when purchased as meat had been stored for at least 24 hours after purchase intact in its film wrapper. No further action.

*Nature of Complaint**Action*

Screw in luncheon meat	Warning letter to importers. Overseas canner to introduce metal detector on production line.
Decomposed tin of corned beef	Tin had been punctured when the key had been removed by complainant's children.
Mouldy bread	Not possible to ascertain if bread was mouldy when purchased as the mould was not discovered until 48 hours after purchase. No further action.
Piece of glass in bottle of school milk	Legal proceedings. Case dismissed.
Undercooked bread	Caused by an air pocket in the loaf. Bakery notified.
Unsound meat	Insufficient evidence for legal action.
Fly in cake	Warning letter to bakery.
Wasp in jar of jam	Legal proceedings. Fine of £10 with 5 gns. costs.
Rancid crisps	Warning letters to manufacturer and retailer regarding stock rotation.
String in biscuits	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Mites in chocolate spread	Warning letter to retailer.
Metal in lollipop	Warning letter to manufacturer.
Unsound meat pie	Complaint withdrawn.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to dairy.
Tainted steak and kidney	Complaint not substantiated.
Outdated vacuum pack of bacon	Warning letter to retailer.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to dairy.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to dairy.
Dirty milk bottle	Dairy installing electronic scanner. Warning letter.
Damaged bottle cap	No action.
Dead fly in tin of dried milk	Complaint referred for full investigation to Ministry of Health, Supply Division.
Foreign body in figs	Warning letter to importers.
Finger dressing in sweet	Legal proceedings. Fined £15 with 5 gns. costs.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to bottling dairy.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to bottling dairy.
Dirty milk bottle	Warning letter to bottling dairy.

Unsound Food

Details of food unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors, excluding meat condemned at slaughterhouses, appear in the following table:—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Bacon	—	—	56	8
Butter, margarine and fats	—	—	1	—
Bread and flour ..	—	—	29	—
Cereals	—	1	20	10
Confectionery (sugar) ..	—	—	28	—
Cream	—	—	6	6
Fish (fresh)	—	5	90	12
Fish (canned)	—	—	27	15
Fruit (canned)	—	10	16	7
Fruit (dried)	—	1	25	12
Hams (canned)	—	2	87	2
Meat (fresh)	—	8	29	5
Meat (canned)	—	6	61	10
Milk (canned and dried)	—	1	77	8
Poultry and game ..	—	3	81	2
Preserves.. .. .	—	—	63	—
Rabbits	—	—	30	—
Sausages and sausage meat	—	—	16	4
Soup (canned)	—	—	42	2
Sugar	—	—	1	—
Sundries	—	6	98	5
Vegetables (canned) ..	—	3	85	15
Vegetables (dried) ..	—	—	14	—
Totals:	2	14	93	11

Frozen foods 3,073 packets

MEAT INSPECTION

The small private slaughterhouse at Wickford closed in September but as the number of animals slaughtered there represented only 2½% of the total and since the remaining private slaughterhouse at Laindon increased output following extensions to the lairage accommodation and hanging room, there has in fact been an increased demand for meat inspection services.

The number of animals slaughtered for food in the District totalled 26,759, an increase of approximately 25% over the previous year and over 14 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

In the early part of the year the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food intimated that, in accordance with Ministry policy it was proposed that Ministry veterinary officers should visit all slaughterhouses once a month as a matter of routine.

The objectives were:—

- (a) to secure a high standard of application of hygiene and cruelty regulations;
- (b) to encourage and assist the attainment of a high standard of meat inspection; and
- (c) to assist local authorities in cases where decision as to fitness of the meat are disputed by the owner.

Since objectives (a) and (b) were already being achieved within this District and problems under (c) were virtually non-existent, it was felt that any such increase in the existing visiting pattern by Ministry Officers, as far as Basildon was concerned, would result in uncalled for duplication of professional effort and unnecessary expense, and the Council successfully made representations to the Minister to this effect. The close co-operation which has in the past been extended by the Department to the Ministry's Officers continues and the advisory services utilised fully when required.

The slaughterhouse proprietor has opted to use wiping cloths for the present time on sheep and cattle but as the law stands at present this practice must cease as from 1st November, 1968. It has been necessary to require the provision of additional hot water facilities in the interim to ensure that separate and adequate facilities for the sterilisation of the wiping cloths are available throughout the working day.

The widespread outbreak of foot and mouth disease with the consequential restrictions and conditions on the movement of animals has caused the times of slaughtering to exceed the hours of 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday–Saturday on innumerable occasions. However, the slaughterhouse occupier explained his difficulties at the outset of the epidemic and my staff have co-operated to the full to maintain a one hundred per cent meat inspection service.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933–1954

Seventeen slaughtermen's licences were issued in the year under review.

Knacker's Yard

The only knacker's yard within the Urban District situated at Whitesbridge Farm, Crays Hill, Billericay and which has been operational since early 1963 closed in December and application is not to be made for further renewal of the licence.

MEAT INSPECTION — STATISTICS

TABLE I
CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2,200	152	378	13,745	10,284	—
Number inspected	2,200	152	378	13,745	10,284	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcass condemned	8	9	14	90	29	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	330	50	5	1,608	1,275	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	15.36 %	38.82 %	5.03 %	12.35 %	12.68 %	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcass condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	2	—	—	182	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.091 %	1.32 %	—	—	1.77 %	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	1	—
Generally and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II
REASON FOR CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHTS OF PARTS
CONDEMNED OTHER THAN THAT SHOWN IN TABLE I

	<i>Pounds</i>
Abscess	1,363
Actinobacillosis	148
Arthritis	69
Bruising	1,777
Cirrhosis and Necrosis	584
Cystic infections, parasite, milk spot	6,178
Emaciation	3,275
Fatty change	79
Fevered conditions	3,226
Fascioliasis	2,892
Gangrene	122
Mastitis	35
Oedema and Dropsy	2,942
Peritonitis	205
Pneumonia and Pleurisy	1,978
Septicaemia	3,098
Telangiectasis	246
Tumours	164
Other conditions	1,528
	<hr/>
= 13 tons 7 cwts. 5 lbs.	29,909
	<hr/>

TABLE III WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
For tuberculosis	—	15	70
For cysticerci	—	1	48
Other causes	13	7	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14	4	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Poultry Inspection

The three poultry processing premises in the Urban District have been visited regularly throughout the year to check on the hygiene requirements and to ensure that a satisfactory system of rejecting carcasses is being operated. Only partial processing of birds is carried out at these premises and as they are not eviscerated, detailed inspection of individual carcasses is not possible.

Poultry Inspection Statistics

Number of poultry processing premises within the Urban District	3
Number of visits to these premises	416
Number of birds processed during the year	731,352

Types of bird processed—turkeys, chickens, roasting and boiling fowls and poussins

Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	1.06%
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	11 tons 8 cwts. 2 qrs. 17 lbs.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors:—

Animal Boarding Establishments	124
Bacteriological sampling	796
Caravans	50
Certificates of Disrepair	2
Condemnation of food	130
Consumer protection	143
Diseases of Animals Act	50
Factories	406
Food complaint investigations	302
Food and drugs sampling	222
Food premises:	
Bakers	28
Butchers	147
Confectioners	127
Cafes, restaurants and hotels	262
Canteens	513
Fishmongers	35
Fried fish shops	28
Grocers	266
Greengrocers	145
Supermarkets	128
Licensed premises	164
Manufacturing premises	59
Funerals	4
Hairdressers premises	32
Housing	1,336
Health education	35
Infectious disease enquiries	164
Massage and special treatment premises	13
Meat inspection	893
Merchandise marks	117
Milk distributors and dairymen	43
Noise abatement	161
Nuisances	4,588
Offices and shops	1,334
Overcrowding	33
Pet shops	17
Poultry inspection	416
Rehousing enquiries	226

Riding establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Rodent control	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Scrap metal dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Sewer connections	..	..	..	..	..	..	237
Shops Act, closing hours, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Slaughterhouses (cruelty and hygiene)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,140
Smoke control	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,387
Social welfare	..	..	..	..	..	..	111
Stalls and vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,763
Standard improvement grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Water courses	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	465

Total 19,878
